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Properties of the Week

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE!

See our feature on pages 18-19



SIX NATIONS RUGBY:

WALES AND THE FRENCH CONNECTION

BACK PAGE PREVIEW - PAGE 40

JEKYLL AND HYDE STUNS THE CROWDS!



ABOVE: The members of
Bridgend Youth Theatre were on
top form last week in the Grand
Pavilion, Porthcawl.
(See PHILIP IRWIN's review and
more pictures by MANDY
THOMAS on pages 6 and 7).

MAN ACTED 'OUT OF JEALOUSY'

Case of 'gross intimidation' at woman's place of work

A LORRY driver who fell out with his partner, who complained about him to the police, went to her place of work and made false allegations about her to her boss.

Simon Fear (47) was acting "out of jealousy and emotional strain" said Recorder Greg Bull QC at Cardiff Crown Court.

Fear, of Pencoed, Bridgend, pleaded guilty to charges of witness intimidation, theft and assault.

Said the Recorder: "You behaved like a young

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

teenager who lost his temper.

"You displayed animosity to a woman you professed to love. The reason was jealousy."

"You then performed a mean-spirited act and tried to lay false allegations against her by claiming she was stealing from her employer. I have to accept you were acting under emotional strain."

Fear was jailed for 10 months, the sentence suspended for one year, directed to carry out 150

hours unpaid work and to pay prosecution costs of £800 and a victim surcharge of £60.

Prosecutor Nuhu Gobir said Kerris Williams had been in a relationship for four months with Fear and there had been many arguments.

On Christmas Day, she dropped off a relative in Ferndale and was aware that Fear had followed her.

She pulled over in Tylerstown. Fear approached her and took her ignition keys. She got out of her vehicle, tried to take them back, and there was a struggle.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



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Readers' Letters

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Wales is beautiful WHY SPOIL IT WITH LITTER?!

I AM an Englishman who has lived in Wales for more than 30 years, and I have frequently heard of people saying how proud they are of the beautiful Welsh countryside.

I agree with them, it is beautiful and spectacular. What I cannot understand is why so many people treat it as a place to throw their litter and rubbish.

Empty cans, bottles, paper bags, plastic bags.

empty or half empty take-away food containers, piles of cigarette ends or any other rubbish that people throw away, do nothing to improve the countryside.

When I cross the bridge to visit my relatives in England, I notice the litter problem is just as bad there.

The next time you walk or drive around, have a look and take notice of how much litter there is – and maybe make the pride in the Welsh countryside stop you adding to it.

D Andrews, Llantwit Major.

SO DIFFERENT IN ENGLAND!

PAUL H Simpson (GEM letters) is completely correct in stating that the existing planning procedure in Wales is "not fit for purpose".

If we all lived in England, we would enjoy planning laws that are very different to Wales. Local communities have a much stronger say and more importantly we would also have a veto on large housing developments of the type that will now destroy Colwinston.

In England, communities do not have to accept top down housing targets.

The reason this absurd housing application for

Colwinston went ahead is probably because our wonderful Welsh Assembly have a policy which forces 10,000 homes on the Vale, a 54 per cent increase on the average over the previous 15 years.

This is a wholly unsustainable number that the Vale planners refused to challenge. We have an LDP that drives development to rural villages and a planning system where the ability of an authority to reject an application is restricted.

These are Labour policies which the majority of residents in Colwinston and many other parts of the Vale have opposed strongly.

Ed Lewis, (Vice chairman, Colwinston Community Council).

'End the madness of cash for the EU'

I READ so often in the newspapers that thousands of people are relying on foodbanks.

Many elderly people are having to choose between eating or keeping warm. Yet the country contributes £50 million a day to the EU.

It is sheer madness. Can anyone explain this to me?

I believe the sooner we get out of the EU the better for everyone. EM Grier, Porthcawl.

Bridgend choir's charity triumph at Wells Cathedral!

HAVING helped the charity Prostate Cymru to raise in excess of £1,000 the previous week at Cefn Cribwr, the figure was topped when the choristers helped raise an even greater sum, this time for a county of Somerset charity, St Margaret's Hospice, at the 12th century, magnificent Wells Cathedral.

This time the choir was entertaining hundreds of listeners in the nave of the Cathedral which had an acoustic which was quite fantastic. The haunting sound and reverberations made for an experience which musical

director, Rhiannon Williams-Hale described as pleasing as she had ever heard.

Certainly, under her assured conducting, the choristers were confident and controlled, whether softly singing 'Bring Him Home'; 'Llel' and 'Myfanwy' or the resounding choruses of 'Men of Harlech' and 'American Trilogy' or the rich and fulsome Amens of 'Llanfair' and 'Tydi a Roddaist'.

The piano and organ accompaniment of Stephanie Bailey and Scott Williams respectively, added significantly to the production to leave the appreciative congregation well pleased.

In between the Bridgend Male Choir's renditions came three vocal soloists, all sopranos and from the locality. Joanne Baker,

Gabrielle Govier and Eden Simpson who, together with organist Scott, added to a great experience. Feedback from the concert sponsor, Haydn Davies; senior cathedral staff and members of the congregation, supported the whole atmosphere of well-being.

Bridgend Male Choir can next be seen on Saturday, March 7 at 7pm, at Brynteg Comprehensive Lower School (Heolgam entrance).

This time they will be supporting local charity, St John's Trust, joined by ladies' choir Vocelle and the choir of Oldcastle School.

Tickets £5 are available at Felicity's Jewellers, Nolton Street or at the entrance.

DAVID T BURT



Meirion Jenkins and his true blue plaster!

Tory will be on crutches at the hustings!

THE Tory candidate in May's general election at Bridgend is in plaster and on crutches, after breaking his leg.

Meirion Jenkins sustained the injury while playing football – at the age of 55!

Mr Jenkins, who comes from Pen-y-Fai, and turns out for "an occasional veterans' game", said: "I have been playing football since the age of five, plus rugby when I was older, and I have barely had a scratch in 50 years."

"But I went down to a heavy tackle just below the knee in a game last week and knew

immediately that I had done something serious. It turned out to be a fractured tibia."

However, Mr Jenkins has already been out and about around the constituency canvassing on crutches. He went on: "While it's bad luck, it's only a hiccup. They have told me that the plaster will come off in five weeks so I hope that I will be fully mobile by then. In the meantime, I am knocking on doors and delivering leaflets with my team."

The father of four went on: "They changed my plaster last Friday and gave me a choice of colour. Well, there was only one that I could pick – true blue!"

WI are kept enthralled...

MEMBERSHIP at Coity WI is growing month by month, and president Lyn Griffiths expressed her pleasure in seeing such a large turn-out of members and visitors on a very wet February night.

Among the many news items Lyn had to share with us, perhaps the most pleasure was received with the news that Frankie Evans was the winner of our new bursary.

It was generally felt that the prize could not have found a more worthy winner, as Frankie's skills in any number of crafts are well known. Frankie has invited Sharon Frances to join her at Denman College to take part in a course on 'Hot Twist Surface Embellishments'.

The good wishes of all the members go with them, and we look forward with interest to seeing the results in due course.

The speaker for the evening was Debra John. We were looking forward to hearing Debra speak on 'Tales from Wales', but we had no idea what a treat was in store.

Debra made her entrance in a beautiful,

late Victorian costume, with a narrow, boned waist and a fetching bustle. Delicate gloves and boots completed the ensemble, and we were held entranced as she introduced herself as the lady of the 'Big House', who, as a lover of Welsh folk tales, proceeded to bring to life the stories of the Mabinogion, enacting each character in turn.

The appreciation of the audience was reflected in the strength of the applause at the end.

The very popular walking group is getting ready to start its spring walking programme. The first walk, led by Sylvia Tamlyn and Val Clatworthy, will meet at Sainsbury's on March 2 at 10am. The craft class meet on March 12 at Gilead Hall for crochet.

The coffee morning held at The Mad Hatter's Tea Room, Nolton Street, was so successful that the ladies will be repeating the visit on the morning of March 13.

The luncheon club will meet at La Strada, Bridgend on March 25 at 1pm.

There is one very important notice for members: the meeting to be held at Gilead on March 19 will be the link meeting, and not our normal club meeting. The speaker on this occasion will be former 'Bluebell Girl' Rachel Williams. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a raffle.

Because of the link meeting, our normal club night will now be held the following week, March 25, when the guest speaker will be our own Terri Moore. The meeting will be held as usual at Gilead Hall Coity at 7pm.

ES

Who wants to build what and where in area?

Mr Jones – Brynawel, Llangeinor – Faceted conservatory to side of lounge extension with a solid GRP roof to form sundeck off the bedroom.

Mr Jason Thomas – 11 Duffryn Madog, Maesteg – Single garage with gym space and future home office in attic space.

Mrs Sarah Wickham – The Stone Barn, Coychurch Road, Pencoeed – Amend P/13/54/FUL increase extension by 0.7m and rework internal layout (minor alterations of side/rear doors/windows).

Mr Robert Cawdrey – 78 Beach Road, Porthcawl – Proposed side and rear two storey extension.

Mr Kevin Thorne – Hendre-Post Farm (access off A4061), Blackmill – New agricultural building for the storage of livestock, animal feed and machinery.

Ms Joanna Bugeja – 28 Philadelphia Road, Porthcawl – Demolish single and two-storey extensions to rear and construct new single storey and two-storey extensions to rear.

Mrs Sally-Ann Bowden – 107A Rowans Lane, Bryncethin, Bridgend – Cut back overhanging branches of beech and pine trees – (1987) OBC no 1.

Northover Estate Agents – 10 Canolfan, Brackla – Change of use to A2 (estate agents).

Mr Lee Jones – 20 Bredenbury Gardens, Porthcawl – Extension to existing dormer.

Mr P and Mrs V Davies – 77 Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr – Demolish

existing kitchen and build new kitchen extension to rear of property.

Dr Rhys Breckon – 11 Heol Las, North Cornelly – Drop kerb to allow vehicle access onto front garden area.

Mr and Mrs Martin Hobbs – Warren Hill, Bryn Road, Coychurch, Bridgend – Remodel house to include porch and associated works to front, new extension at ground floor and first floor, b/room extension and detached garage.

Mr Daniel Lewis – Blackmill Service Station, Blackmill, Bridgend – Location of mobile hairdressing van (static) on forecourt.

Valleys to Coast Housing – Ger-y-Nant, Brook Street, Bridgend – Construction of single storey rear extension, enclosed canopy to front. Ramped access to new extension.

Mrs Laura Davies – 89 Hermon Road, Maesteg – Single storey extension to kitchen and garage/store to rear garden.

Mrs SL Thomas – 34 Cae Canol, Porthcawl, Bridgend – First floor extension – re-sub of P/13/793/FUL.

Mrs Mohen – 23 Cae Rehedyd, Coity, Bridgend – Erect conservatory to the rear elevation.

Michael and Magalie Muriel Boland – Land adjacent Pen-y-Fai Primary School, Heol Eglwys, Pen-y-Fai – Certificate of appropriate alternative development.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL March 5)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
26 Thur	11.53	8.2		
27 Fri	00.25	7.9	13.06	7.7
28 Sat	01.51	7.5	14.39	7.5
01 Sun	03.17	7.7	15.55	7.9
02 Mon	04.22	8.3	16.47	8.4
03 Tues	05.11	8.8	17.29	8.9
04 Wed	05.51	9.2	18.08	9.2
05 Thur	06.24	9.4	18.42	9.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Suspended sentence is given to driver

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
The prosecutors said: "She then took his dog from his car and put into her car. Fear lunged at her as she sat in the driver's seat holding the dog. He grabbed her hand, scratched her, shouted abuse and would not let go."
Later, said Mr Gobir, she called the police and Fear was arrested. Fear denied being involved and said such an incident hadn't taken place.
When on bail, with the condition not to contact her, Fear sent her text messages.
On December 30, said Gobir, he went to a store in Bridgend where Miss Williams worked and made a false complaint about her to the manager.
He told her that if she dropped the

allegations of the Christmas Day incident, he would not pursue the complaint against her.
Fear was said to have convictions for 11 offences, including public disorder, obstructing the police and battery.
His solicitor, Adam Sharp, said: "The incident at her place of work was an act of gross intimidation, nothing less than mean-spirited."
He said that on Christmas Day, he was struggling to get over the death of his brother.
"He was not predisposed to violence. He acted stupidly and had deep feelings for this lady. Custody would have a great impact on him and these proceedings have had a salutary effect."

MP's call to universities

"MORE needs to be done to ensure our brightest students from state schools and disadvantaged backgrounds have places in the top universities," said the Ogmore MP Huw Irranca-Davies last week.
He met with representatives from 24 Russell Group universities to talk about the root causes of the under-representation of disadvantaged students at leading universities, and to hear about the ways in which the group are trying to solve this problem.
"While the group has

made some progress in this area, there is still much to be done to ensure our top universities are opening their doors to the brightest state school and college students from south Wales, and across the UK," he said.
"It is imperative that the leading universities in the UK continue to address the access gap for disadvantaged students, so that our best talent does not lose out to privilege and wealth.
"We also need to ensure our schools are encouraging students to be ambitious, and giving them the skills and confidence to compete at the highest academic level."

Lest We forget – 'The Arsenal' at Bridgend

Are you in the picture?



The 'Arsenal'.

THE Royal Ordnance Factory at Bridgend – affectionately known as 'The Arsenal' – was situated on the site now occupied by the Bridgend Trading Estate. Unless you know where to look for it, there is very little evidence left now to show that 'The Arsenal' ever existed.
The photographs were taken on October 20, 1943 at the bus terminal outside the present South Wales Police Headquarters Building. The buses were Western Welsh AEC and Leyland half-cabs, as well as AEC Grey Utility Double Deckers. They were there to transport workers back and forth between their homes or hostels and 'The Arsenal'.
Look out for more snippets of information and photographs of 'The Arsenal' in next week's GEM.
Please note that in last week's GEM, the incorrect email was given – there is an 'e' between the 'keith' and 'morgan' in keithmorgan@talktalk.net. If anyone responded last week, please try again using the correct email.

Are you in any of the pictures? If so, contact Keith E Morgan, GEM photo-journalist, on 01656 788150 or e-mail keithmorgan@talktalk.net

PACT meetings

ABERKENFIG/PEN-Y-FAI PACT on March 2 at Aberkenfig Social Club at 7pm.
SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT on March 2 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.
BRYNCETHIN PACT on March 4 at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.
LLANGEINOR PACT on March 11 at the Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.
YNSAWDRE PACT on March 11 at Ynysawdre Community Hall at 6pm.
OGMORE VALE/NANTYMOEL PACT on March 11 at Horeb Chapel, Nantymoel at 7pm.
PYLE PACT SURGERY on March 12 at Pyle Life Centre at 6.30pm.
BETTWS PACT on March 19 at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.

STUNNING PRODUCTION BY THE BYT



The Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) produced a stunning show last week when they tackled

Jekyll and Hyde – The Musical. A review and photos of the show are on pages 6 and 7.

Meanwhile, apologies to Lewis Coster, in the foreground of the photo above, who last week was incorrectly named as Tom Coster.

The Lions' annual charity book fair

FOR the book lovers of Bridgend borough, and much of south Wales too, the waiting is nearly over.
From Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 8, Bridgend Lions will take over the YMCA Building in Angel Street, Bridgend for the eagerly awaited annual charity book fair.
Once again, it will be chock-a-block with an enormous stock of top quality books.
Since October, Lions Club members have spent many hours carefully selecting and categorising donated books so that they're well presented for the anticipated crowds on the opening Friday of the three day event.
The doors open daily at 9am and entry is free. There will be a 'pop-up' café providing light refreshments for those who want to have a few moments of quiet rest to review and enjoy their purchases.
The Lions like to encourage visitors to bring plenty of their own 'bags for life' as past experience has shown that they will be buying a lot of books for little money.
All profits from the event will benefit local charities and causes. Lions Club members are volunteers and do not take personal expenses.
The 21st annual Lions Charity Book Fair will be opened officially by the Mayor of Bridgend Town, Coun Bob Burns, at 9am on Friday, March 6.
For more details about the Book Fair, other Lions' projects and membership go to bridgendlions.org.uk or follow the club on Facebook and Twitter.

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TRACTOR BOYS OF ABERTHIN 'ON THE RUN AGAIN' FOR THE AIR AMBULANCE

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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THE Tractor Boys of Aberthin are getting well known in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend county borough for their charity tractor runs on Sunday mornings.

On Sunday, February 22, they were raising funds for the Air Ambulance.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' images, despite the miserable weather, spirits were high.

This time they met at JG Plants in Brackla and headed for Llanharry and Coity before making the return run back to Bridgend.



Support for the disabled celebrates 20th birthday!

THIS month sees a new drop-in club at Maesteg kick-starting a year of activity for Trinity Care & Support, the local service for people with learning disabilities that has just turned 20 years old!

The activities continue with Trinity Church in Porthcawl hosting a special service at 11am on Sunday, March 8 to celebrate 20 years of specialist care in the local communities of Bridgend County.

Jackie Graham, TC&S Manager, explained: "It all started in response to an approach from the council, and in 1995 the church set up 'Trinity Sitting Service'. Today, operating as Trinity Care & Support, we continue to provide short-break respite care for children and adults with disabilities, as well as a successful day club from its church base.

"Celebrations will continue with a series of events throughout the year to mark the 20-year milestone, including a formal gathering for its AGM on July 14, and a social evening at the Hi-Tide for friends and colleagues old and new on October 23."

As well as the celebrations, TC&S are extending new services to local communities. The Saturday Club in Porthcawl has grown in popularity and TC&S wanted to replicate its success.

Already providing one-to-one respite support for disabled people across the borough, in response to a need for more daytime social activities, TC&S is extending its 'drop-in' opportunity for people 15 years and older into Central Church behind the Town Hall in Maesteg.

Trinity support staff are on hand with a range of activities including arts and crafts,

music, games and puzzles - and anything else that people might want to get involved with for a bit of fun!

For an entry price of £5, doors are open from 1.30pm until 4.30pm each Wednesday and people will be welcomed with a smile, a cuppa or a snack, and a chance to make new friends.

Plans are also in motion for a school holiday 'Seaside Activity Club' for mixed-ability children from the age of eight years and up, starting at Easter (April 9) at Trinity Church.

Look out for Trinity Care & Support on Facebook, online at www.trinitycareandsupport.org.uk or email richard.trinitycands@gmail.com to find out more.

RICHARD THOMAS

Pencoed celebrates first indoor market

RIGHT: The MP with Maria Stevens, organiser of the event. OGMORE MP

Huw Irranca-Davies officially opened the Pencoed craft and small business indoor market on

Saturday, February 14, which provided a fun afternoon out for all ages.

It was organised by Maria Stevens, who offered all Pencoed businesses who wished to participate a free table at the event, and worked closely with Pencoed Town Council to ensure its success.

Ms Stevens explained: "I am passionate about small business and wish to promote Pencoed businesses as I believe we have a wealth of talented crafters and wonderful small businesses in the village."

The MP said: "I am extremely grateful to Maria for inviting me to open the market. I came away with great locally-made gifts and freshly-made preserves, cakes and delicious pasties. My waistline's fuller and my wallet's a bit emptier, but like everyone else who attended, I was delighted with the event."



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Birthday lunch and exciting times for Townswomen's Guild

AS I write this, the Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild has just celebrated its 61st birthday with a luncheon at the Grove Golf Club, with guests Coun David Newton-Williams and, from the Cardiff Federation, Freda Welch and Kit Owen.

A good meal and entertainment from Mrs Carys Evans and her son Teilo on harp and violin - what more could one want for a February afternoon?

All our groups have been in action - craft, literary and the new indoor games group.

We have also held an enjoyable coffee morning when we could get together for a chat. Our lunch in January was held at the Seagull pub, which has been very much improved and decorated.

Mr Romeo Bassini was the speaker at our February meeting on the 'Italian Connection'. We particularly liked his accordion playing!

The AGM is at 2pm

on March 11 at All Saints Church Hall. Visitors welcome; telephone 01656 772157 for more information.

Dorothy Thomas

UKIP CHOICE FOR OGMORE

A TONDU nurse has been chosen to fight the Ogmere constituency for UKIP at the general election in May.

Glenda Davies, born and bred in the village was unanimously selected in a meeting in Port Talbot.

She trained as a nurse at Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, after attending Ynysawdre Comprehensive School - and also taught science at various secondary schools after completing further education in chemistry.

She is currently nursing within the field of dementia care and says that health and education are two of the main issues she will focus on in her campaign.



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Bridgend Youth Theatre takes a championship show and drags it into the Premier League!

FOLLOWERS of the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) are used to being surprised by the company, writes Philip Irwin.

Surprised by the professionalism of the productions. Surprised by the quality of the young actors. And surprised by the sheer intensity that director Roger Burnell asks of his cast.

However, in tackling *Jekyll and Hyde – The Musical* last week, they did something quite new. They dragged the show kicking and screaming into a whole new league!

I reviewed J and H a few years ago and wrote that it was a 'Cardiff City of a musical' – hoping to make the Premier League but lacking the quality. I said it had one good song ('This is the Moment') and was full of two dimensional characters who were difficult to care about. I could have added that the plot has more holes than in Blackburn, Lancashire.

Of course, Cardiff City did make it to the Premier League, for one bizarre season, so it shows that you have to be careful about making predictions. I'm not sure if this makes Roger Burnell the BYT's Vincent Tan or Malky Mackay! Not a happy choice!

So how did they do it? Well, the first step is having really strong performers in the four main roles – Jekyll, his fiancée Emma, his friend John, and Lucy, the tart with a heart who puts sexual temptation into the mix.

I'll return to them later because, no matter how good they were – and they were terrific – it was the sheer intensity of the rest of the cast that swept the performance along.

The show is about Jekyll's descent into madness, and the BYT took us into an unhinged world with the whole cast on stage for much of the time, and they drag the audience into that madness.

Choreographed by Roger Burnell and Meredith Lewis, it was an 'in your face' performance – with so much happening it was impossible to concentrate on any one thing.

The ensemble numbers were sung with maximum intensity. A troupe of balletic dancers in Scottish country dancing dresses were everywhere, their choreography (by Philippa Jones and Gemma Mulcahy) commenting on the action on stage, and the overall effect was to leave the audience

breathless.

Suspension of disbelief is the aim, particularly with a dodgy plot, and without the fevered atmosphere that the cast created, the main performers might have found things difficult.

Heading the main performers has to be Tom Elliot, as Dr Jekyll. You don't put this show on without having faith in your lead actor, and Tom repaid that faith. The transformation into Hyde was done without much extra make-up, just through mannerisms, ticks and the use of a maniacal laugh.

It was truly impressive, and it was matched by his voice, which worked superbly when he sang 'Take Me As I Am', the romantic duet with Emma.

However, any Jekyll will be judged on the show's big number 'This is the Moment' and I can't recall seeing it sung better. He had the confidence to start quietly, and as a result it built steadily to a superb

finish – followed by rapturous applause from the audience.

Olivia Hopper had a tricky task with the role of Emma, as the character can come across as a bit of a doormat, meekly following in Jekyll's footsteps, but she played it with spirit and determination. Add to that her lovely warm soprano tones and it's fair to say that she completely won the audience's hearts.

Jack Davies impressed as Jekyll's friend, John Utterson, wrestling with his conscience as the truth about Jekyll dawned on him. He revealed a really strong singing voice as well.

The role of Lucy was split, with Meredith Lewis and Ceri-Anne Thomas playing alternate shows. The girl who is trapped in a life of vice is a staple of musical theatre, with Nancy in *Oliver!* and Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* prime examples.

J and H even has a Bill Sykes figure, with Oat

Jenner exuding pure evil as Lucy's pimp. Oat has been a real stalwart of the BYT, and he really made the most of this sadistic villain.

In fact, Ceri-Anne and Meredith gave us two different Lucys, with the former playing the role in a style that reminded me very much of Nancy in *Oliver!* She played the role with a sense of pride and faced up to her troubles, using her powerful voice to portray a character with inner strength.

Meredith started off in Sally Bowles mode. As she started her opening number, 'Bring On The Men', *Cabaret* came very much to mind.

However, her Lucy was different. As the events unfolded, she hoped that Jekyll would save her, only to have that hope dashed by his evil alter-ego Hyde. The experience left her damaged beyond repair, and she put this feeling of desolation into her songs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Jekyll and Hyde cast and production list

CHARACTERS listed with two actors were dual cast, with the role alternating between the two.

Dr Henry Jekyll – Tom Elliot; **Gabriel John Utterson** – Jack Davies; **Sir Danvers** – Gethin Phillips and Ryan Davies; **Emma Carew** – Olivia Hopper; **Lucy Harris** – Ceri-Anne Thomas and Meredith Lewis; **Simon Stride** – Hari Mackinnon; **The Bishop of Basingstoke** – Owen Rhys-Evans and Matthew Lee; **Lady Beaconsfield** – Kate Jones and Chloe Thomas; **Lord Savage** – Lewis Coster; **General Lord Glossop** – Ryan Davies and Gethin Phillips; **Sir Archibald Proops** – Lewis Scott and Jack Beale; **Spider** – Oat Jenner; **Nellie** – Phoebe Lewis; **Poole** – Rob Davis; **Bisset** – Gethin Williams; **Henry Jekyll Snr** – Gethin Williams; **Newsboys** – Patrick O'Neill, William Foksett, Thomas Herbert, Rhys Jones, Ciaran Davies, Willis Deeks, Filip Harasimovi, Dafydd Williams Rees, Keenan Edmunds, Aled Davies; **Reverend** – Matthew Jones; **Blind Beggar** – Nathan Williams; **Priest** – Tom Friend.

Soloists – James Evans Jones, Layla Miller, Lucy Vinen.

Ensemble – Jeanine Borg, Ben Davis, Dylan

Thomas, Kitty Toy, Mali Thomas, Laura Johnstone, Hannah Mort, Emily Wintle, Lydia Thomas, Megan Evans, Layla Miller, Laura Underhill, Tasha Evans, Phoebe Spence-Evans, Sarah Bowdidge, Alix Feeley, Lowri Rees-Owen, Charlotte Evans-Jones, Katie Shears, Gemma Dunlop, Harriet, Collins, Louie Lyons.

Junior Ensemble – Abbi Audsley, Hannah Strong, Danielle Collins, Emma Jenkins, Nadine Johnstone, Nia Humble, Jeri-Lynn Grabham, Lauren Hancock, Eve Manley, Aisling McCormack-Thomas, Megan Morris, Goerge Neeson, Lili Smith, Rachel Whistance, Regan Davies, Skylar Tiffany Evans, Isabelle Evans, Naomi Jenkins, Stephanie Jones, Evan Laidler, Ella Niman-Board, Dafydd William Rees, Loren Taylor, Georgina Anderson, Lauren Bailey, Matthew Briggs, Mya Bushell, Jonny Tanner, Isabelle Evans, Ellemay Walker, Rachel Mary Bold, Olivia Pownall, Abigail O'Neill, Carys Morgan. **Fantasy Feet Dance** – Alex Powell, Georgina Powell, Erin Twose, Chloe Coleman, Sarah Hames, Kaisha Jones, Naomi Dorricot, Ffion Smith, Caitlin James.

Production List

Orchestra: Musical director – Phil Juliff; Violin 1 –

Joanna Walters; Violin 2 – Andrew Walters; Viola – Bernard Kane; Cello – Stewart Roberts; Reed 1 – Catherine White; Reed 2 – Elin Adams; Reed 3 – Dic Hamer; Reed 4 – Lucy Mae Millership; Trumpet – Jonathan Clarke; French Horn – David Hughes; Trombone – Jeff Pearce; Percussion – Adam Davies; Bass Guitar – Geraint Evans; Keyboard – Andrew Chinnock.

Production team: Director – Roger Burnell; Assistant Director – Naomi Pearl Roberts; Set Designer – Jessica Kilpatrick/Nick Burnell; Production Manager – Meredith Lewis; Venue Stage Manager – John Kirk; Deputy Stage Manager – Shelley Rees-Owen; Backstage Team – Ellis Rowlands, Michaela Sellick, Naomi Furness, Ffion Thomas

Sound – Dave Spencer; Lighting – Mario Williams; Costume – Sian Coleman; Set – Emily Barry, Ffion Thomas Michaela Sellick; Set Construction – Jon Owen/Mario Williams; Prop hire – Emily Barry; Marketing – Serina Williams/Meredith Lewis/Mei Lewis/Jayden Martin, Buzz Magazine; Fantasy Feet – Philippa Jones and Gemma Mulcahy; It's My Shout Production Assistant – Becky Davies, Efa Thomas, Holly Ash.



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The body count rises as Edward Hyde is on the rampage in youth theatre's latest show

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

When Hyde appeared, with murder on his mind, Ceri-Anne's Lucy fought him, while Meredith's seemed almost to welcome it, as putting an end to her suffering.

It was fascinating to see two talented young actresses being given their head to play the role in the way they saw fit.

Lack of space prevents me from listing all the good performances in this production, but Roger Burnell and the production team must be delighted with their efforts.

Musical director Phil Juliff and his orchestra helped the young performers too, keeping the music loud enough to be dramatic, but never letting the volume overwhelm the singers.

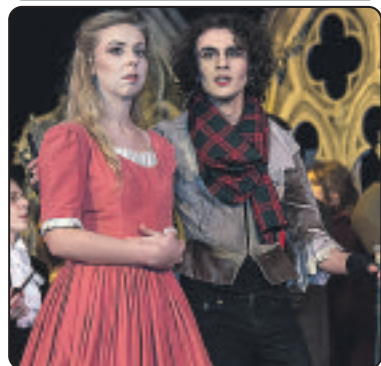
Although the Friday night show was almost full, I was amazed to see empty seats on the Thursday night. People in Bridgend county borough – and Porthcawl in particular – really haven't grasped what is on their doorstep.

Finally, the production was dedicated to James Elliot, the brother of lead actor Tom, who died shortly before the production. Tom went ahead with the role, as his family wished, and in doing so, he paid a James a truly special tribute.

PHILIP IRWIN



Dr Jekyll (Tom Elliot) with Phoebe Lewis, one of the 'ladies of ill repute'.



Olivia Hopper with Simon Stride, played by Hari Mackinnon.



Oat Jenner threatens Lucy.



ABOVE: Meredith Lewis (left) as Lucy, and Olivia Hopper as Emma.



Hyde has murder on his mind with Lucy, played by Ceri-Anne Thomas.



ABOVE: The Fantasy Feet dancers.



ABOVE: Tom Elliot played Dr Jekyll.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Concert triumph
BRIDGEND male choir's recent concert at Bethlehem Chapel Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr (in conjunction with the Parc and Dare band, Cwmparc, Rhondda) was a great success with a packed hall.

The choir, under musical director Rhianon Williams-Hale and accompanist Stephanie Bailey with the band under its musical director Andrew Jones, played and sang a large selection of varied music.

The concert was held to help raise funds for Prostate Cancer, Cymru, and generated more than £1,000.

The choir's local concert will be at 7pm on March 7 at Brynteg Comprehensive Lower School with Vocelle Ladies Choir and the choir of Oldcastle Primary School, Bridgend. Tickets, £5 are available from Felicity's Jewellers in Nolton Street and at the venue, immediately prior to the concert.

This concert will benefit the work of St John's House Trust, which is committed to the preservation of St John's House on

Newcastle Hill. **Aberkenfig WI** ABERKENFIG and District WI president, Eunice Williams, welcomed the members and three visitors to the recent meeting.

A list for the trip to a lunch and fashion show in the Mumbles on April 22 was circulated.

With the business finished, Eunice introduced the speaker, Gayney Jones, whose subject was 'Love Quilts'.

A prolific quilter, she went through two large bags of quilts, explaining why and how she made each one. Each quilted item told a story.

Gayney talked about the Bridgend Quilts group who make small quilts for the neo-natal units in Bridgend. Gayney has entered in various shows and had some successes.

The winners of the raffle were Gillian Williams and Paddy Bailey and the winner of the competition for a small pottery item was Irene Burgess.

Aberkenfig and District WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig at 2pm. The speaker at the next meeting on March 11 will be Pat Johnson, whose subject is, 'What does she get up to in that shed?' The competition

will be for the daintiest cup and saucer. For further information, call Dilys on 01656 725399 or go to www.cobwebs.com.

Tondu school
TONDU Primary School's St David's Day celebration will be an eisteddfod (school only) on Monday, March 2, when daffodils will be on sale. The proceeds will be donated to Marie Curie.

The cookery competition takes place on March 2 and all pupils taking part are asked to bring in a Welsh-themed dish, using Fairtrade ingredients. They will talk about how they made their dish and points will be awarded.

Parents are invited to see the St David's Day exhibition from 3pm on March 2.

The school will be combining the celebration of World Book Day to help raise money for Comic Relief on March 6; the school is asking the children to either dress as their favourite character from their favourite book, or wear something red for Comic Relief, and would be grateful for any donations towards Comic Relief.

Say cheese!
BRYNCETHIN WI president Debi Thomas informed members that Sarah Webb has agreed

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



to be the designated photographer for the WI. Members will be photographed as a pictorial record of the meetings and for online purposes.

Secretary Jen Davies read the Glamorgan Federation's newsletter and members were reminded to check the local Bryncethin WI website for up-to-date information.

Alvys Jones asked members to bring their recipes to the WI meetings for the recipe book that Bryncethin WI is producing.

Carol Finch reminded members of a bingo and curry night to be held at The Royal Oak in Bryncethin and Debi Thomas then introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr David Thomas, head of forensic science. Debi presented him with a gift to thank him for donating his time free of charge to the group.

Bryncethin WI meet on the third Thursday of

each month at 6.45pm - 9pm, in Bryncethin Memorial Hall. The next meeting will be on March 19 when Mel Bastier from 'Out To Learn Willow' will be demonstrating her willow weaving skills.

For further information email: bryncethin.wi@gmail.com or telephone 07938 746890.

Two choirs
BOIS Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch Male Choir (Coytrahen and District male choir) will be performing a St David's Day concert in the indoor sports hall at Tondu Cricket Club, Bryn Road, Bridgend, CF32 9EB, at 7pm with Maesteg Children's Choir.

Also appearing will be Jacob Lloyd Lewis, son of the former Welsh rugby International, Emyr 'Tarw' Lewis.

Tickets £7, available from: Tondu Cricket Club - 01656 720045; choir secretary - 07976 420161; choir treasurer - 07793 777632.

Visitors and new members are welcome at the choir's rehearsals in Tondu Cricket Club on Sundays 6pm to 8pm and Thursdays (7pm to 9pm).

Busy choir!
OGMORE Valley male voice choir based at Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmor Vale rehearses on Thursday evenings (for further information telephone John on 01656 841429).

It has a busy few days ahead: on Sunday, March 1 it will be leading the singing at the wedding of Teri Jones in Bryngarw Country Park and will later present a concert at the centre, 'Cawl a Chan' at 7pm.

On March 2 the choir will be at Tynyrheol primary school, Llangeinor to sing at a special concert for the children as a follow-on to the school's eisteddfod.

On March 8 at 2pm the choir will lead the hymn singing at a family memorial service for David Pritchard, originally from Cwmbran, who recently passed away in the Wye Valley.

Musical treats
CŌR Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley Ladies Choir) will celebrate St David's day with CŌr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch at the Celtic Club in Garth on Sunday at 7pm.

Entry is £3 payable at the door, or telephone 01656 733581.

Tomorrow (February

27) there is a concert at Maesteg town hall by the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band and Noteworthy mixed voice choir under Ryan Wood, with Rhian Jenkins accompanist. The compere will be Beverley Humphreys and there is a guest soprano, Charlotte Ellett.

Held to commemorate the centenary of Maesteg hospital, tickets are £7 and can be obtained at the door.

Welsh style
Cribwr Community Centre has an evening of Welsh entertainment on March 25 at 6pm, with local school children, harp music, Welsh comedy and a choir.

A donation from the evening's proceeds will be presented to Wales Air Ambulance. Details from Diana/Martin on 01656 856614/740026; email: m.a.i.l.mgoudge@sky.com.

Gardening club
L A L E S T O N Gardening Club has a thriving ladies' section which meets on the first and third Tuesdays in the month at the 'Cliff cottage', High Street, at 7.30 pm. New members welcome.

On March 3 the section will enjoy a talk on handicrafts from Zambia by Deana Owen. Deana is the organiser of the local charity 'Friends of Monze' which helps orphans and disabled children in Monze, a small town in Zambia.

Netball success
PUPILS from Mynydd Cynfig Junior School



Two young ladies presenting bouquets, at the Bridgend Male Choir's recent concert. SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 9

recently triumphed at the Bridgend county borough primary school netball championships at Ogmor Valley Life Centre.

The one-day tournament had a total of 28 matches played by boys and girls from schools across the county borough. The winners were closely followed by Plasnewydd Primary school, which took second place and West Park Primary school which came third.

Both Mynydd Cynfig and Plasnewydd will now progress through to the Glamorgan Valleys final, which is being held in April at the University of South Wales.

They will battle with the top two teams from Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf for the opportunity to reach the Welsh finals, to be held in Sophia Gardens in May.

Parents' forum
T Y N Y R H E O L primary school is proposing to set up a parents' forum where a parent representative for each year group could come in once a half term to discuss ideas they would like to see implemented in the school.

Brandon Riddiford was named the most improved swimmer for the school.

Two values of behaviour chosen by staff and pupils - the first was 'Respect' and certificates were presented to the winners as follows:

Class 1 - Gracie Williams, for always

using good manners to staff and children.

Class 2 - McKenzie Dowling, for always showing respect by waiting patiently.

Class 3 - Ellie Street, for showing respect to members of staff and helping to keep the school tidy.

The other value was 'Politeness' and the winners were:

Class 1 - Asher-James Wilson, for always saying please and thank you.

Class 2 - Zoe Baird, for being very polite, good mannered and respectful.

Class 3 - Paige Penny, for always listening and using beautiful manners to all staff.

Post office
CEFN Cribwr Post Office is now relocated in Jill's newsagents, also known as 'Cefn Cribwr Stores' at 80 Cefn Road.

It has much longer opening hours and post office services are now available seven days a week, Mondays to Sundays, 7am to 9pm.

Blood donors
THE Welsh Blood Transfusion Service will be holding a donor session on Friday, February 27 at Pyle Life Centre from 1pm to 5.30pm.

This is a walk-in session and no appointments are necessary. Donors must be fit and healthy and take an eligibility quiz to ensure they are suitable.

More information is available at www.welsh-blood.org.uk

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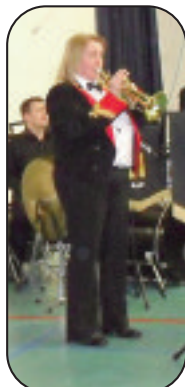
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Local choir play to packed-out hall!

FURTHER to Clive Mitchell's report on page 8, here are more pictures from Bridgend male choir's recent concert at the Bethlehem Chapel Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr.



Andrea Lewis performs a Flugel Horn solo.



A smart young bandsman.



ABOVE: Rhiannon playing the big drum.



A pensive Andrew Jones.

BRIDGEND Library and Information Service is inviting youngsters to mark this year's World Book Day on Thursday, March 5 with a belated St David's Day celebration in Pontycymer Library.

The library will host a free bilingual fun day between 10am – 1pm, and welcomes children to dress as a character from their favourite book, or in traditional Welsh costume and have their photograph taken by a professional photographer.

Co-ordinated by Bridgend Library and Information Service in partnership with Tyfu, a Welsh Government initiative which aims to introduce bilingualism to their children, the fun day will include a variety of stories, arts and crafts, songs, rhymes and games that children can enjoy in both English and Welsh.

Aimed at children and their families, the

event will give youngsters a taster of the Welsh language and the heritage of our country while celebrating literacy and our national day.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "The bilingual fun day is a wonderful opportunity for youngsters and their families to sample the Welsh language or to build upon their current Welsh speaking ability while enjoying a variety of activities."

"Similar events previously held in other libraries have proved to be very popular so I'm sure the additional celebration of World Book Day will only make it a greater success!"

Porthcawl Library will also be marking St David's Day and World Book Day with a Welsh story-time and craft session on Saturday, February 28 at 2.30pm to tie in with the Celtic festival taking place in the

town this weekend, followed by a book-themed story-time and craft session on Saturday, March 7 at 2.30pm.

World Book Day in Wales is co-ordinated by the Welsh Books Council and supported by the Welsh Government and celebrates authors, illustrators, books and most importantly, reading in over 100 countries around the world! This is the 18th year of the event which

aims to encourage children of all ages to explore the pleasures of books and appreciate reading.

To find out more about these, and other events taking place in libraries across Bridgend County Borough, contact Bridgend Library and Information Service on (01656) 754800, email blis@bridgend.gov.uk, or visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries.



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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Fibromyalgia support group

DO you suffer from Fibromyalgia, or have you recently been diagnosed with this condition? Are you a carer looking after a loved one or relative?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a health topic session on Thursday, March 5, from 10am to 12 midday at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

A health care professional who specialises in Fibromyalgia will be available to chat to you on any issue.

No appointment is needed. Telephone 01446 732385 for further information.

LOTTERY HANDS OUT £1.5m TO LOCAL PROJECTS

NEW figures reveal that over **£1.5million** of National Lottery funding was handed to projects in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan in the last year.

Across the region,

153 grants were awarded in 2014. These benefited local arts, sports and heritage projects, alongside community groups helping those most in need. They were awarded to a wide range of projects, including:

Abercridin Primary School in Bridgend received £4,960 to establish a community library.

EyePAT Community Interest Company in Llantwit Major received £4,995 to fund a series of anti-bullying workshops in schools across South Wales.

St Illtyd's Church in Llantwit Major received £65,000 towards essential repairs and improvements.

Arthur Davis Court Residents Association in Barry received £2,220

to fund a greenhouse and shelving, benches, fencing, compost, plants and timber for planters.

Sker & Pink Bay Surf Life Saving Club received £5,000 to purchase a trailer and new surf lifesaving equipment.

Pyle and Kenfig Community First Responders received £5,000 to purchase defibrillators to support their expanding coverage within Cornelly, Pyle, Kenfig and Cefn Cribbwr.

If you wish to nominate your favourite project, or enter your own project in this year's National Lottery Awards, visit www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk or call 0207 293 3599 to find out more. Entries must be received by midnight, March 25.

FREE TAX ADVICE FOR THE ELDERLY

TaxHelp for Older People (TOP) will offer free professional tax advice to older people on a restricted income at Roz Couzens' Chiropractic Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major on March 2, from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066.

Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.



ABOVE: WWH procurement manager Peter Jenkins, senior admin Officer, Di Barnes and admin assistant, Leah Jenkins.

Company pledges support for Cancer Research Wales

A LEADING Welsh housing association has announced that Cancer Research Wales is to become its official charity partner for the next two years.

Wales & West Housing (WWH) will take part in various fundraising activities to support the charity's work, over the coming months.

Planned activities include a

sponsored bike ride leaving WWH's Flint office in North Wales to their Cardiff office in Tremorfa, staff participation in the charity's annual Pink and Blue Walk and 'dress down Fridays'.

WWH has raised a total of £75,000 for three major charities over the past six years, including Alzheimer's Society, Help for Heroes and Stroke Association Wales.

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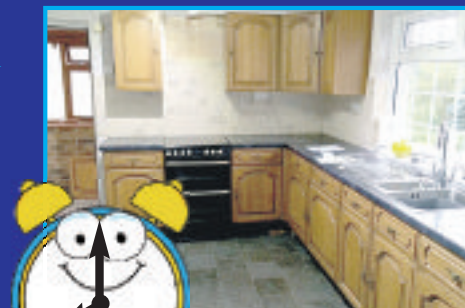
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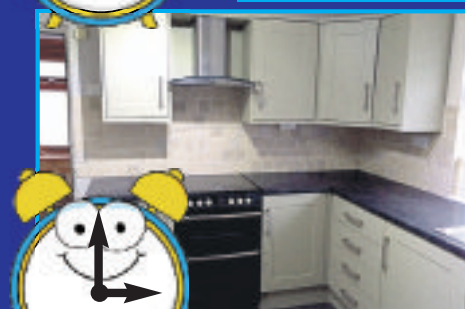
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Older People's Commissioner praises Extra Care scheme

HAFOD Care Association welcomed Sarah Rochira, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales to their new Extra Care scheme – Golau Caredig in the Vale recently.

Located in the centre of Barry, the £7.2m development provides affordable independent living accommodation for older people in the form of 42 purpose-built one and two-bedroom flats. Individual care and support is provided for the tenants via an in-house domiciliary care and tenant support service.

The commissioner chatted with residents and was joined on a tour of the building by senior officers of the Vale Council, Coun Stuart Egan, Vale of Glamorgan Deputy Leader, and colleagues from Reach who provide the domiciliary care.

Scheme manager, Miles Utting, from Hafod Care said: "We are very proud of our new facility and are already seeing the huge difference that living here is making to our tenants lives. We want Golau Caredig to be very much part of the local community and were very pleased to be able to showcase the scheme to our visitors".

Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira said: "It was wonderful to visit the Golau Caredig extra care facility and meet with the tenants."

"The independent living accommodation in Barry has a restaurant, hairdressers, launderette and several communal areas, and provides support that allows the residents to stay healthy, active and independent."

"As well as giving older people the opportunity to make new friends as part of this new community, it also allows them to go shopping, attend appointments and meet existing friends and family in

nearby Barry town centre, reducing the risks of them becoming lonely and isolated.

"Many of the residents have now been living at the site for over five months, and it was great to chat with them about how they have settled in and the many benefits of living in such a great environment."

Coun Stuart Egan, cabinet member for adult services, said: "Golau Caredig provides high quality accommodation where residents can live safely with flexible levels of support. The iconic building provides a standard of living for older people that was previously lacking in Barry and the response from both its residents and the wider community has justly been hugely positive."

The scheme has recently been shortlisted for a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors 2015 awards. These showcase the achievements of the most inspirational regional initiatives and developments in land, property, construction and the environment. The winners will be announced in Cardiff on May 14.



Hafod Care welcomed Sarah Rochira and colleagues from the Vale Council and Reach.

PACT meetings

DYFAN PACT at the Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry on Sunday, March 1 at 7.30pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT at Barry Rugby Club, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry on Monday, March 2 at 7pm.

COURT PACT at Witchill Community Centre, Dyfan Road, Barry on Thursday, March 5 at 6pm.

DEAF PACT at Station 20, Barry Fire Station, Port Road, Barry on Thursday, March 5 at 6.30pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting please contact

101 or you can log onto www.ourbobby.com.

Penarth and the Vale

PLYMOUTH PACT at Byrd Crescent Community Centre on Thursday, March 5 at 5pm.

SULLY PACT at the Cricket Pavilion, Burnham Avenue, Sully on Thursday, March 5 at 6.30pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT at the Royal British Legion, Penlan Road, Llandough on Monday, March 9 at 7pm.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre on Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm.

Wartime civilians' stories sought

LAST year, we remembered the start of the First World War and this year we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War Two.

Those who lived through those momentous years are now nearing the end of their lives, and before it is too late I would like to try to capture their memories in a book.

A few months ago, you were kind enough to publish my letter asking for anyone who lived through the war to contact me, and I am pleased to say the about 20 people did so. Some had served in the armed forces, others were children at the time. Their stories were fascinating, and I am deeply grateful to them for responding.

However, in order to get a full picture of the war, years I would love to hear from the civilians who made such a vital contribution: the women who went to work in the factories or on the farms to replace the men who had been called up, the air raid wardens, the firefighters, the 'Bevin Boys' drafted into the mines. They, too, have a story to tell.

It may be that a relative who lived through the war has now passed away, but wrote their memories in a book or diary for the benefit of their grandchildren. If anyone has such an account, and

would be willing to share it with me, or if they have a story of their own to tell, please get in touch.

My contact numbers are 01656 858812 or 07761 498284, and my email address is malcolmcowper@gmail.com. Malcolm Cowper.

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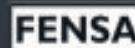
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Paris 2 Penybont cycle ride is in honour of Hollie

NPT Homes staff will join a group of eight people cycling from Paris to Bridgend in memory of Hollie Clark – and to help raise over £20,000 for the Anthony Nolan charity.

Hollie inspired the #pantsonyourhead campaign which managed to increase bone marrow donor registrations by 2580 per cent in the UK during the summer of 2014.

Hollie was born in Bridgend, which will be the finish line of the 'Paris 2 Penybont' challenge.

The cycle challenge brings together NPT Homes staff and a group of others, some of whom have never met. Together they have been inspired to get on their bikes for a great cause.

The ride will start at the Eiffel Tower in Paris on Monday, July 13. The team will then cycle 500 miles over six days to Bridgend in South Wales.

Two other NPT Homes employees will join the team to form the support crew who will follow the riders to ensure their safety and to offer kind words of encouragement.

NPT Homes' head of investment and regeneration and 'Paris2Penybont' cyclist, Andrew Carey, said: "Anthony Nolan is an amazing charity that does fantastic things for those with blood cancer and finding a match for those who need it. NPT Homes supported the Help Hollie campaign last year and has since voted Anthony Nolan as its 2015 chosen charity.

"I have experienced the efforts of their great work when Hollie, my second cousin, needed their support in finding a donor. Myself and the other cyclists are taking part in this challenge with the aim of raising £20,000 to say thank you to Anthony Nolan for all their help and to help them continue the amazing work they do."

Will Connolly, Head of Corporate Partnerships and Special Events at Anthony Nolan said: "On average, two thirds of UK patients who need a bone marrow transplant won't find a matching donor in their families, so they turn to us to find them an unrelated donor. It costs around £100 to recruit each potential donor to the bone marrow register and the money the team raise will help us to add

more potential lifesavers to our register."

To join the Anthony Nolan register, visit www.anthonynolan.org. To join the cycling team or to sponsor them on their challenge, visit www.justgiving.com/Paris2Penybont/.

HOSPITAL Radio Glamorgan (RG) volunteer, Richard Manning, has secured funding for one of RG's shows from Keep Wales Tidy.

Catherine Moulogio from Keep Wales Tidy said: "We are delighted to sponsor the Monday Night Richard Manning Show. As Richard volunteers weekly for us and also volunteers for Hospital Radio Glamorgan, it is a fantastic way for both charities to support each other."

Richard has been a volunteer at RG for almost four years and hosts a two-hour music show on Monday evenings.

Richard said: "Keep Wales Tidy can be perceived as the litter police but tackling litter is only part of their work. They also target the other things that spoil our environment like graffiti, fly-tipping, vandalism, pollution – the anti-social issues that plague communities across Wales.

"As a volunteer there I can see that Keep Wales Tidy is about making Wales a better place for us all to live in. I hope to be able to provide opportunities within my weekly radio show that will help spread the message about the important work Keep Wales Tidy do."



RICHARD MANNING.

Justin's packing for his travels again in memory of his best friend Gareth

BRIDGEND rugby player Justin Hostettler-Davies is off on another fundraising adventure: his plan is to climb the UK and Eire's highest peaks in three days.

Justin is a committed fundraiser for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, after witnessing the death from the disease of his best friend, Gareth.

In 2013, Justin set out from Llandudno to walk non-stop all 700 miles of the newly-opened Wales Coastal Path. Sunburn, blisters, and a visit to A&E later, he proudly strode onto Porthcawl beach to a welcome home from 1970s stars JPR Williams and Phil Bennett.

In 2014, Justin now supported by a team of like-minded friends set out on the iconic Land's End to John O'Groats cycle. Justin admitted that he hated cycling before he started and

would cheerfully never cycle again when he finished!

In two years, Justin has raised over £30,000 for MND Association and now in August he is planning his biggest challenge to date. The five highest peaks in UK and Eire are a torturing test of endurance and grit. To cap it all, on his way home, the mountain conquering hero is planning a quick up-and-down at south Wales' highest peak Pen y Fan, a mere 886 metres!

Justin's fundraising supports the South Wales Care Network, a joint project between the MND Association and NHS Wales, providing care and advice to people living with MND in South Wales.

Anyone wanting to support Justin's Climb4MND, should visit his Justgiving page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/climb4MND/>.



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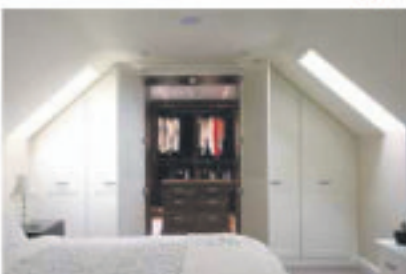
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Search for the 'lost' Vale playing fields

A NATIONWIDE campaign called #FieldFinders is asking the public to identify over 900 'lost' playing fields, originally protected as public green spaces by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie's charitable trust 90 years ago.

"We believe that 22 of these are in the Vale of Glamorgan, but we don't know the exact location, or if they even still exist!" a spokesperson said.

"The sites are 'lost' because their exact locations were never centrally recorded, but they are in fact protected from urban development under the original terms of the Carnegie grants."

"With green spaces at a premium and many being lost to urban redevelopment, the #FieldFinders campaign aims to protect some 3,000 football pitches, tennis courts, playgrounds and other recreational green spaces with better legal protection."

"But we need the public's help. #FieldFinders is hoping the public can help to locate the Carnegie playing fields, preserving the legacy of the original grants and

protecting the spaces for future generations.

"Members of a specialist team are in place to cross reference submissions with any surviving documentation and begin the process of keeping a site safe for generations to come."

The #FieldFinders campaign is targeted at local communities across the UK with the aim of local residents finding Carnegie playing fields in their area.

#Field Finders will have until August 31 to report back via a dedicated web portal www.fieldsintrust.org/Carnegie.aspx about their Carnegie playing field. Members of the specialist Fields in Trust team will then cross reference it with any surviving documentation and begin the process of improving legal protection of the site to keep it safe for generations to come.

Investigative 'Field Finders' are also being encouraged to share images of the sites using their social media profiles, specifically Twitter and Instagram.

Douglas White, head of Advocacy at Carnegie UK Trust, said: "We want to find as many of these fields as possible and ensure that they remain legally protected for the local community."

VELINDRE EASTER CHICKS APPEAL!



FOR 14 years, members of Soroptimist International Barry and District, assisted by family and friends, have donated knitted chicks to the Velindre Easter Chicks Appeal.

Volunteers fill the knitted chicks with chocolate eggs and these are sold for £1 each, with about 90 per cent of the chicks being sold in schools.

The children love them and like to collect them each year. The appeals officer at Velindre

Hospital, Julie Smith, started the 'Chick Knit' 18 years ago, when her aim was to reach £1million!

Having reached her target, she is now aiming for her second million, as there is no let up in the demand for the chicks. Each year the club donates approximately 1,000 and, when delivering them this year, club president Jeni Gower-Jones, together with club appeal co-ordinator, Maywin Thomas, were pleased to meet some of the volunteers who fill and pack the chicks ready for distribution.

President Jeni also handed a

cheque for £82.50 to Julie in respect of knitted items sold by members.

The Velindre Appeal is always looking for new knitters, and if anyone would like to be involved please telephone Julie Smith on (029) 2031 6211.

The photo shows Maywin second from left, president Jeni, far right, together with Julie and the volunteers.

To find out more about who we are and what we do visit www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district.

CJD

As Foodbank numbers rise... Lions hand over donation

AS the Vale Foodbank passes the milestone of providing free emergency food parcels to almost 10,000 local people in crisis, it was visited by John Wordley, president of Llantwit Major & Cowbridge Lions who handed over a cheque for £500.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the Foodbank, Susan Lloyd Selby said: "The Lions is a wonderful organisation, consisting of volunteers who raise money and do whatever they can to help their local community."

"Here in the Vale they support a huge number of local causes, including diabetic screening, the Big Wrap and the British Legion."

"As the number of people seeking help from the foodbank continues to rise, we are incredibly grateful to the Llantwit Major & Cowbridge Lions for their support."

Speaking on behalf of the Lions, John Wordley praised the foodbank's work and the dedication of all the volunteers involved: "The Lions

support humanitarian causes across the world, from our 'Sight First' programme, which is aiming to prevent and cure blindness in the Third World, to supporting young people from the Vale to work with disadvantaged children in Venezuela and India, but we also recognise and respond to needs on our own doorstep.

"We are delighted to be able to support the Vale Foodbank and hope this donation will enable them to continue to ensure no-one need go hungry in the Vale."

For more information about the work of

Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions, call 0845 833 6763 or mail: secretary@lmandclions.org.uk; web: www.lmandclions.org.uk

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THE NFU LADIES IN CELEBRATION MOOD

THE Vale NFU Ladies held their annual dinner, when all the stops were pulled out at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

The place was buzzing and good raffle prizes were won.

NFU member Mrs Ray Evans gave a vote of thanks to the committee for its hard work throughout a successful year.

February's meeting took place in the Penllyn Village Hall, and a talk was given by Tyrone Peach on 'Fraud awareness with credit cards'.

Chris James gave a vote of thanks and everyone felt very

enlightened by the talk.

February is also the time for the annual general meeting and at this meeting it is always the chairperson's privilege to select the charity of her choice.

Ann Rees chose

Kidney Research and

£500 was sent.

The next meeting is on March 17 at the Penllyn Village Hall at 7.30pm, with a talk by Pam Miles on carnival glass. New members always welcome.

JS

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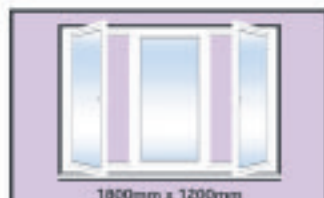
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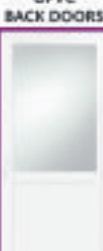
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Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D867.

● £2,000: 539773.
● The rollover, which now stands at £5,000 was not won this week.

● £10: 954759, 465539, 425213, 220112, 288008, 817482, 479737, 374718, 380497, 941766, 396127, 181850, 391307, 348858, 723968, 610855, 824736, 833079, 1244, 1895.

● £5: 611283, 673382, 545606, 220736, 145262, 575628,

736573, 768741, 728858, 817895, 501115,

127973, 757673, 219744,

466468, 590958, 227706, 146334, 885858, 299742, 525521, 232556, 498952, 327176, 914956, 366922, 939212, 615221, 517054, 665189, 623488, 765296, 202231, 131525, 375743, 385147, 540827, 697438, 468338, 602885, 908235, 328383, 261236, 937918, 707803, 893236, 126242, 719442, 247902, 791681, 914482, 267546, 508967, 841274, 852178, 601679, 662712, 1507, 1393, 1300.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA

History society

RHOOSE and District History Society is holding its monthly meeting this Friday, February 27 at 7.30pm in the lesser hall of Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose.

Harold Williams will talk on 'Memories of a Vale Gamekeeper'. Admission at the door £1; children under 16 50p.

Bore Cofli
CYNHELIR Bore Cofli gan Merched y Wawr, Y Bontfaen, Dydd Sadwrn, 28ain Chwefror, yn y Neuadd Lai, Y Bontfaen o 10.30 i 12.00. Tocynnau wrth y drws am £2.50 i gynnwys paned a phicen/dewis di-luten.

Bydd raffl a stondinau a'r elw yn mynd i Bobath a Ty Hapus. Croeso cynnes i bawb!

Coffee morning
A COFFEE morning will be held by Cowbridge branch of Merched y Wawr this Saturday, February, 28, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge from 10.30am to 12pm. T

Tickets are £2.50 and can be purchased at the door. Entry includes tea/coffee and a Welsh cake or gluten free choice.

There will be stalls and a raffle. Profit goes to Bobath and Ty Hapus. Everyone welcome!

Club celebrates
BARRY Athletic Cricket Club launches its 125th anniversary celebrations with a quiz/social night on Saturday, February 28 at

The West End Club at 7.30pm; £2.50 per person.

Arthritis UK

coffee morning

THERE will be a St David's Day coffee morning in support of Arthritis UK on Saturday, February 28, in St Helen's Parish Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry, from 10am to 12 noon; entry £1.50 includes tea or coffee and Welsh cake.

There will be stalls, cake, cards, jewellery, fancy goods and a raffle. All proceeds for Arthritis Research UK.

Community Centre's homeless event

THERE is free food for the homeless on March 1 from 11am-2pm at Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Soup and a sandwich and papers available to read. It is another initiative of the Drop-In Centre Development Trust.

Fair date

TREASURE Trove Fairs are holding an A&C Fair on St David's Day, March 1 (from 10am - 4pm) at the Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF5 6DH; free parking.

The hotel is putting on a special St David's Day lunch - contact 02920 512349; www.info@treasuretrovefairs.wales.com.

March on, girls!

VALE sports clubs are hosting free tasters and open days throughout March, to encourage women and girls of all ages to be more active, as part of a 'March on, Girls' scheme.

Women of all ages can sample rowing, tennis, football and a range of other activities.

Details at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/marchongirls.

Mediumship

THE Barry National Spiritualist church and centre will hold an evening of mediumship with Bernie Scott on March 2 at 7pm; pay at the door £4; Buttrills Road, Barry CF62 8EF.

Tax advice

TAXHELP for Older People will hold a free income tax surgery for those with income tax problems at the CAB offices, Bridgend on Friday, March 13.

To book an appointment, telephone 08456 013321.

Hugh's book

FORMER 'Strangers' frontman Hugh Cornwell will be in Penarth on March 13 to talk about his new book, *Arnold Drive*, hosted by Griffin Books on the gallery of All Saints' Church, Victoria Square at 7.30pm.

Tickets on sale now at Griffin Books £5.

Mayor's charity dinner dance

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Jeff Evans, will hold a 1920s-themed charity dinner dance at the Wenvoe Castle Golf Club, Wenvoe on Friday, April 17 at 7pm.

Tickets are £28 (£25 for senior citizens) and are available from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry CF62 8NA.

The evening will include live entertainment, four course meal, raffle/auction and disco. Everyone welcome. All proceeds are in aid of ValePlus and The Jam Fund, nominated charities of the Mayor of Barry.

For further information, contact the Mayor's secretary on 01446 704921, or email juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Rhoseo bingo

RHOOSE Community Centre at Stewart Road, Rhoseo is holding another bingo afternoon to raise funds for the running of the hall. Doors open at 1.45pm for a 2.30pm start on Saturday, February 28. Light refreshments are served at half time.

Young Merlin

NIGHT Owl Theatre present *I Merlin*, a musical narrated by a charismatic young Merlin with six mad wizards, at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, from March 5-7.

Tickets from nightowltheatre.ticketsource.co.uk.

Lions Club of Bridgend

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'It's so different in England!'

PAUL H Simpson (GEM letters) is completely correct in stating that the existing planning procedure in Wales is "not fit for purpose".

If we all lived in England, we would enjoy planning laws that are very different to Wales.

Local communities have a much stronger say and more importantly we would also have a veto on large housing developments of the type that will now destroy Colwinston. In England, communities do not have to accept top down housing targets.

The reason this absurd housing application for Colwinston went ahead is probably because our wonderful Welsh Assembly has a policy which forces 10,000 homes on the Vale, a 54 per cent increase on the average over the previous 15 years.

This is a wholly unsustainable number that the Vale planners refused to challenge. We have an LDP that drives development to rural villages and a planning system where the ability of an authority to reject an application is restricted.

These are Labour policies which the majority of residents in Colwinston and many other parts of the Vale have opposed strongly.

Ed Lewis,
(Vice chairman, Colwinston Community Council).

'What use is the Welsh language?'

IS there nothing anyone can do these days without being called racist, a bully, a victim and offensive?

I get cheesed off with these words being banded about constantly to cover anything anyone decides to get upset about. It is pathetic.

People need to grow up, get a backbone, and accept we are all entitled to express our views and opinions. To claim that saying Cowbridge is an "oasis of Englishness" is a racist remark, is nothing short of lunacy and stupidity.

One writer states they love the Welsh language and have learnt to speak

Welsh. Well, bully for you... whatever floats your boat; but most of us could not care less and are quite happy to speak English which is basically a universal language, unlike Welsh, which is only understood by a small minority of Welsh people.

So... of what use is the Welsh language anywhere else except in small areas of Wales? None... it's taught nowhere else, except Wales and mostly forgotten the day you leave school.

My name is there for all to see and I expect a backlash from some - broad shoulders, water and 'duck's back' spring to mind.

Anne Usher, Barry.

'GET JOBLESS TO CLEAN UP LITTER'

MPs are often the subject of criticism; however, I must write in praise of Alun Cairns. I wrote to him two weeks ago, regarding the litter problem in the area around Cowbridge, and specifically the section of road from Pentre Meurig to Llyswoyney.

Mr Cairns wrote back with a copy of his email to the Vale Council requesting action. Yesterday and today the council workmen are litter picking from Llantwit Major roundabout across Llandow through Llyswoyney to Pentre Meurig.

So it seems that it does pay to contact our local MP with any concerns - and thank you to the Vale Council for such prompt action.

However, isn't it a shame that at this time of austerity and cut-backs in funding for the various council departments, our rates have to be spent on a team of council workmen being paid to work the weekends cleaning up the mess

from the mindless idiots who throw their litter out of their vehicles as they travel the lanes around the Vale.

Why can't they understand that every £1 spent on litter picking is one £1 less available for schooling, road repairs, medical care etc.

Visitors and tourists to this area have often asked... "Why are the laybys and verges so filthy around here?"

It's not a problem particular to our area, of course: it's a British problem. Travelling around other countries, there doesn't appear to be the same degree of litter in the smaller towns I've visited, but cities are a different case.

A few years ago, the Government wanted to get offenders and those out of work, able bodied people, to help the communities by litter picking. If I remember correctly, there were objections that it would be 'demeaning' to them.

Surely this idea could be looked at again, since the council is going to be short of money for a very long time to come.
Michael Tough, Llyswoyney.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

BALANCED LETTERS ON HOUSING ISSUE

HOW refreshing to read the letters in The GEM from David Parry (February 12), David Kennett and John Evans (February 19) making a case for additional housing in the Vale.

Their eloquent letters provide balanced evidence to support the points they make which contrasts with previous letters in The GEM, including those from Cowbridge councillors, advocating that

houses should be built in Barry, instead of Cowbridge - divisive and patronising.

We need more housing and the infrastructure to go with the new homes in both the rural and urban communities, and Messrs Kennett, Evans and Parry are right to point out the need for affordable housing to be more widely available.

The division within our communities regarding house building was clearly demonstrated when the planning committee voted on planning permission for 177 dwellings at White Farm, a well-loved, historical, and green area in the heart of Barry containing a 12th century church.

All rural councillors on the committee voted to approve the plan, while others voted against. Coincidence or parochialism?

We do need to protect all of our special areas, accept the need for more homes spread more evenly across the Vale, and put pressure on planning policy that is incapable of providing the infrastructure to support that growth.

Dennis Harkus
FocusBARRY supporter

'DON'T LET OUR TOWN DIE'

WITH regard to the letters by David Parry and David Kennett concerning a proposed new development at Darren Farm outside of the existing boundary of Cowbridge town, let us be under no illusion that the aim is to maximise profits.

As such, most houses will probably not be affordable to many youngsters of the town.

The proposal is to build in the order of 380 houses, which means an extra 700-plus cars.

Our town has under 400 official car parking spaces, two council-owned and one at the Waitrose development.

This development is just outside what most would say, is an easy walking distance in to town - so it is fair to say that the majority will descend to park their cars in the already saturated car parks and side roads within the residential areas close to town.

The high street clogs up now on school runs, so just imagine it with all those extra cars. A new access road on to the bypass will not prevent this.

Other services that will be over-stretched

will be doctors and dentists, and it is difficult enough to get appointments now. Just wait till we get an extra thousand (20 per cent increase) or so new residents living here.

The town services infrastructure would all need to be upgraded - sewers, gas, electric and telephones; this means digging up existing roads causing mayhem.

The way forward has to be proper, integrated planning and the creation of new infrastructure - which includes roads with direct links to trunk roads and motorways bypassing already traffic-saturated villages; also the provision of new schools, a health centre, shops, etc, would need to be considered.

This could be best served by creating a new community using the existing brownfield site at Llandow. I am not a Nimby and I have lived in the Cowbridge area for 65 years.

I also know that every town has to develop and grow. I walk everywhere within the town and I am well placed to see what is happening.

I do not wish to see our town die from over saturation of population growth, causing breakdown of our existing services.

David Davies, Cowbridge.

THANK YOU, MR WEATHERMAN!

HAVING been a recent in-patient at Velindre, Whitechurch (with, inter alia, spinal cancer) I am grateful to TV weatherman Derek Brockway for his proposed Patagonian adventure to raise much-needed funds for this outstanding hospital (The GEM, February 12).

Velindre was/is fantastic - the staff, the wards, the whole ethos of the centre.

Thank you GEM, thank you Derek. I, too, before my illness climbed Pen-y-Fan in the 'Fan Dance': it can be treacherous and dangerous.
Christopher Short, Barry.

Memories of a wartime 'clippie'

WITH reference to 'Are you in the picture?' published in The GEM on February 19 which featured a 'Nantymoel' Western Welsh bus, it is quite possibly a bus on which my mother, Elizabeth-Ann (Betty) Thomas of Port Talbot (deceased) was a conductress, during the war years.

I have some remembered tales of her service routing, 39-46, duties which included Bridgend to RAF St Athan (picking up German PoW generals, on parole, from Island Farm camp) and the Bridgend Arsenal, where the day's routine included two trips to Ogmere and two to the Garw.

Her bus was parked outside the admin-

block - SWP HQ - the day there was an accidental explosion in one of the manufacturing plants.

As a gruesome child, I remember pressing her for details in her account of seeing "arms, legs and bodies, spinning in the air".

I do not have any photographs of my mother from her early years, so would be particularly interested if any in Mr Keith Morgan's album contain bus crews from the period, where I may be able to identify her.

She also recalled 'breaking-up' a potential assault on one of the German generals, by some US servicemen from St Athan.

She threatened to expel them from her bus if they didn't desist! No-one defied She Who Must Be Obeyed!

David Biddles

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Tributes are paid to Lionel Rees Former Mayor 'great citizen of the town'

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt has paid tribute to former Mayor and a great citizen of Barry, Mr Lionel Rees, who has died.

Ms Hutt said: "My heartfelt and deepest sympathies go out to Dot and her family for the loss of Lionel her beloved husband.

"Lionel was a former Mayor of Barry and long-serving town councillor dedicated to the town of Barry and his local community.

"Lionel was a Barry Town councillor for 25 years, serving Gibbonsdown and then Cadoc ward faithfully and diligently.

"His wife Dorothy (Dot) was Town Mayor in 1987 and he was her loving consort, as she was for Lionel when he was the Mayor in 1993-94.

"They were a truly remarkable couple sharing the same beliefs and values - caring for people and the community. Lionel was a wise friend and colleague and he will be greatly missed by his family, friends and the Sea View Labour Club, which he served faithfully."

Coun Chris Elmore said: "Lionel wasn't just a stalwart of the Vale of Glamorgan Labour Party, he was a dear friend to me, never afraid to speak his mind and give me advice on any subject he felt."

Eileen Moore of the Drop-In Centre Development Trust in the town knew him well through his commitments to the local community.

"He did a lot of charity fund-raising through the Sea View Labour Club.

"He was a supportive, kind and knowledgeable person.

"He was great company with a good sense of humour too."



How Cardiff and Swansea fought over university

THE speaker last week at the Barry Men's Forum, which meets at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, Aberystwyth Crescent, every Thursday morning at 10.15am, was Mr Gordon Roderick whose talk was entitled 'Cardiff v Swansea'.

This was a very informative talk about the setting up of a university in South Wales.

He noted the only universities in England up to the 1850s were Oxford and Cambridge, who solely dealt with the classics.

However, he also said that Scotland had four universities. It was no accident that a large number of engineers and other professional people came from Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In 1847 Manchester University - Owens College - was founded, and others were soon funded by industrialists, especially in the north of the country.

In 1880, a Royal commission was set up to investigate the possibility of a university in Wales.

This resulted in arch rivalry between Cardiff and Swansea, both wishing to be the location, and bidding for the meagre grant of £4,000 offered by the government.

Gordon detailed some of the banal claims the councils made for locating in their areas, such as Swansea being near the Mumbles, a very healthy location, and Cardiff assessing the number of trains that stopped in a day at its station, and Swansea countering with the higher number of Welsh speakers in the area.

Cardiff was eventually selected, with the promise of the university being set up in the top floor of the library in the Hayes. When it did open, the university was located on the top floor of Cardiff Royal Infirmary Hospital.

New members are very welcome and on Thursday, March 5 the speaker will be Mr Mike Cheeseman, whose topic is Gravity.

PMW

Scouts get an early insight into Japan

EVERY four years, a world Scout Jamboree is held and the summer of 2015 sees the 23rd being held in Japan.

There will be a gathering of 4,000 Scouts from across the world, including one Explorer Scout, Emily Mortimore and the Group Scout Leader Martin Evans from 1st Penmark with Porthkerry Scout Group.

In celebration of the World Jamboree, the Cub Scout section attended a session called 'Japan in a box', where they learned about Japan and the World Jamboree. They looked at and painted Japanese symbols and Kabuki and Noh masks.

They discussed Japanese food and looked at the types of receptacle used and got to play with chopsticks, as well as dress up in kimonos.

They played a traditional game and tried their hands at origami. Many of the origami peace storks that they made will be taken to Japan by the group scout leader who will place them at a memorial, to remember



Eating Japanese style.

those who lost their lives at Hiroshima.

The Cubs thoroughly enjoyed the evening and it allowed them to learn about another part of the world and also be involved in a World Jamboree event that only takes place once every four years.

Who knows, maybe one or more of the Cubs learning about Japan in 2015 will have the opportunity to be involved in a future

World Jamboree, wherever that might be!

Carvery fun for Cubs

DURING half term 18 Cub Scouts from 1st Penmark with Porthkerry descended on the Toby Carvery, Rhose (Cwm Ciddy) to take part in Chef School.

The Cubs had the opportunity, with the help of the Toby staff, to colour in Chef's paper hats and learn about

different fruits and vegetables and healthy eating.

One of the Cub Scout leaders, Bagheera (Tony Field) was nominated by the pack to go behind the scenes and help to carve some meat! The morning finished with the pack tucking into a delicious carvery!

The 1st Penmark with Porthkerry would like to say thank you to the Toby Carvery and the staff involved for making the morning very enjoyable and tasty!

COLETTE RAYMOND

PROBUS CLUB HEARS OF CHARITY WORK

ON February 17, member Colin Turner gave Dinas Powys Probus Club an account of his trips to Lesotho with members of The Penarth and District Lesotho Trust, involved in charity work to the children there.

Lesotho is a landlocked country in South Africa, about half the size of Wales, with a population of around 1,600,000. The whole country is higher than Snowdon, and the main industry is farming. Colin was based near the town of 'TY' and spent his time at the local school/orphanage, where 95 per cent of the pupils

were orphans due to the Aids virus.

Most families live in thatched mud brick-built one-roomed huts and Colin emphasised that it is important western culture should not be imposed on them.

Villages are full of small businesses selling vegetables, imported worn shoes, particularly 'crocs', metal workshops, cobblers and tapestry.

Training workshops have been set up in some areas to train men in skills such as bricklaying and carpentry, skills which they can then take back to their own villages.

The vote of thanks was given by Peter Coleman.

CR

Joe's back!

'THE Man With 1,000 Voices' Joe Longthorne returns to the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on Thursday, March 12 at 7.30pm.

His repertoire includes hundreds of the world's top singers and he has won gold and platinum discs for his albums.

Follow The GEM on Twitter - @gem_news



Bridgend and Vale share windfall from the Assembly

BRIDGEND, the Vale, RCT, Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil are to get an additional £434,210 to develop play opportunities for children, Lesley Griffiths AM, the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty has announced.

The local authorities will receive the funding as part of £1.5 million to improve play areas across Wales, to provide access for disabled children, provide signs to

encourage street play, buy new resources such as rope swings, climbing frames and transportable equipment to ensure children from disadvantaged areas have increased opportunities to play.

Bridgend will get £66,575, the Vale £63,103, RCT £119,835, Merthyr Tydfil £28,927 and Cardiff £155,770.

Wales was the first country in the UK to pass a law to ensure children have an opportunity to play by placing a duty on local authorities to provide suitable outdoors spaces and play areas.

LLANDOW TIP: 'fill in potholes'

HAVE you visited the Llandow recycling centre recently? The approach to it reminds me of the fall of Berlin.

Some of the potholes are so deep that even President Putin's tanks would be hard pressed to get through! Once there, the attendants are all safely locked up in their caravan and there is nobody to offer any help.

Instead, elderly residents clutching heavy metal totter up rickety and steep steps at grave risk to their health and safety.

I know that the roadway approaches belong to others, but all the council has to do is to put a load of hard-core over the worst of the potholes. Why are they not doing this? Why do we put up with it? Guy Howel Jones, Llandough.

Aniston impresses, but Cake makes for an underwhelming slice of cinema...

JENNIFER ANISTON'S career may have been the most impressive of the *Friends* cast post-show, but she's still lacked the critical acclaim – instead finding herself in broad, commercial films like *Horrible Bosses*, *Marley and Me* and *Just Go With It*.

However, Aniston has shown her ability in the likes of *The Good Girl* and *Office Space*, and her latest film, *Cake*, sees her take on arguably her most serious role to date. She plays Claire, who following an accident, attends a chronic pain group. When a female member of the group commits suicide, Claire becomes fascinated by her life, and finds herself growing closer to her widower, Roy (Sam Worthington)...

The first time we see Jennifer Aniston onscreen in *Cake* it is with a subtle, but noticeable, scar down

the right hand side of her face, with greasy, lank hair and a puffy face; not the Aniston that front covers of magazine would recognise certainly.

While her taking on this less-than-glamorous role may smack of the old adage that to 'ugly' yourself up in the name of art leads to critical acclaim, it isn't a sop to critics – instead this is Aniston at her rawest, playing against type in a film that may feel a little shopworn, but is lit up by her incredibly powerful performance.

There's type of character that Aniston has perfected down the years – happy-go-lucky, funny, warm – that Claire is a million miles away from. Acerbic, angry, frustrated and keen to take it out on anyone around her, she's the sort of character it would be very easy to take a dislike to – yet Aniston's natural charm and personality shines the slimmest of lights onto the character, and as the story develops Claire becomes if not quite a sympathetic



by **GARETH JAMIESON**
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figure, then certainly an empathetic one.

Anyone who knows the actress purely for her lighter work will be pretty surprised by how good she is here, but those who have seen the aforementioned *The Good Girl* will know how Aniston is capable of stretching her range, and she does it here again with no little aplomb.

There is a wry, dry comedic sensibility, not quite black but certainly dark, that allows her to stretch her legs a little, but in the film's more darker and harder moments she really comes into her own. Around her are her sparring partners Roy (Sam Worthington) and her cleaner/assistant (Adriana Barraza), both of whom offer more than able support, while having their own small moments to embellish their characters.

What is a shame is that around these impressive turns there is very little narrative weight. Patrick Tobin's script doesn't really plough new ground, and

the narrative beats feel familiar and expected; there is no point where you see anything that you haven't seen before, from the reason Claire is in both the physical and mental state that she is, through to the slight redemption of her character – while the story feels like it builds and builds to something, but never really gets there.

Director Daniel Barnz fares slightly better, the film having a visual style that is striking, but again feels a little too similar to the many independent films that share that woody aesthetic; there are a few clever moments, but again it feels like something you've seen before.

It's Jennifer Aniston's performance that truly makes you want to have a slice of *Cake* however, and watching the former *Friend* be anything but friendly in such a superb turn makes you want to see more of her in more dramatic fare; sadly, however, *Cake* fails to match her performance.

VERDICT: A case of a superb performance enlivening an otherwise lacklustre film. Jennifer Aniston delivers an incredibly powerful performance – but *Cake* is unable to match it with a story that feels predictable and all too common. Without Aniston it would be a below-average effort; with her it's above average. *Worth watching.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Good Girl* (2002), *American Beauty* (1999).



Bob Carter from F1 in Schools with the BCS Bloodhound Team – Joshua Garland, Dylan Davies, Ruben Hopkin, Luke Sargent, Jack Oliver and Thomas Froud.

NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT THE BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



The BCS Racing Team, Mitchell Thorngate, Oliver Bartlett, William Eddy, Thomas Cosgrove and Gareth Hurman.

COUNCILLOR STEPS DOWN

THE Vale Council announced this week that it had reduced the size of its cabinet to six members following the resignation of Coun Rob Curtis as cabinet member for environment.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Council, said: "At a time of significant cuts to local government spending, the only appropriate course of action was to take this as an opportunity to further reduce the cost of politicians to the organisation."

"The financial constraints placed upon the Vale of Glamorgan Council by central government mean that my cabinet colleagues and I are currently having to ask service managers to find considerable savings. I feel it is only right that the council's political leadership lead by

example. "Coun Curtis' departure will be a great loss to the authority. I have thanked him for his considerable input over the past three years and look forward to continuing to work with Rob in his role as a ward member."

The size of the council's cabinet was reduced from 10 posts to seven in 2012, a change which has saved the council in excess of £100k in the years since. The role of cabinet member for environment, which include responsibility for waste management and recycling, highways maintenance, and street lighting, will be redistributed amongst the remaining cabinet members.

Details of their expanded portfolios will be confirmed at the next meeting of full council on March 4. Coun Curtis remains a ward member for the Gibbonsdown ward in Barry.

News from Barry Community Garden

WE are having a Welsh-themed day on March 2 when we'll be wearing something Welsh, such as a daffodil or leek or rugby top. We'll also have a cup of Welsh tea and a Welsh cake for visitors who want to pop in. Everyone welcome between 10am – 2pm.

On March 12, we are working with Keep Wales Tidy to run a workshop on how to sharpen and maintain your garden tools. Bring along your blunt shears and secateurs and we'll help you make them as good as new. Everyone welcome between 10am – 1pm. Both events are being held at Barry Community Garden and Allotment, off Dyfnallt Road, Gibbonsdown, Barry, CF63 1RU.

For more information email gardenmanager@hotmail.co.uk or contact us through our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BarryCommunityGardenAllotment. LW

F1 in Schools success

TWO teams from Barry Comprehensive School won through to the F1 in Schools national finals from the regional final held recently at Swansea Waterfront Museum.

F1 in Schools Ltd is a social enterprise working with industry partners to create a fun and exciting learning environment for young people to develop an informed view about careers in engineering, science, marketing and technology.

BCS Racing took the honours in the F1 Class of the competition, beating 9 other teams and BCS Bloodhound won the Bloodhound Class, beating eight other teams.

BCS Racing were delighted to win and

said: "For the second year in a row we're through to the Nationals, to face the other competitors and see how we perform against them. We think our standard of engineering and our team performance put us ahead of the rest."

In addition to their own preparations for the competition, the senior team also set up and ran the new BCS Bloodhound team. The older students mentored the Year-7 students through their first F1 in Schools experience and were delighted at the new team's success.

The BCS Bloodhounds said: "We're feeling amazing after winning. Our presentation was our strongest part. We're very proud to be going to Birmingham, especially as it's the first time we've done this."

Congratulations to both teams!

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I vote for Julia!

THERE have been articles in the press recently on who is the greatest person from Cardiff which leads me to ask who is the greatest person from my home town of Barry?

After a lot of thought, for me it must be Julia Gillard – the first woman prime minister and first woman Labor leader in Australia.

Born in the Queen Street area of Barry, she emigrated to Australia in 1966 and was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1998, becoming PM in 2002.
Coun Richard Bertin, Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

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Agatha Christie library opened at Atlantic College



Only Boys Aloud performed at the event.

The bust of Agatha Christie is unveiled by Matthew Prichard.



THE official opening of the Agatha Christie Library at UWC Atlantic College was performed on February 16 by Mathew Prichard CBE, DL, grandson of legendary murder mystery writer, Agatha Christie.

The ceremony at St Donat's also included a special performance by the college's theatre arts students, marking the 125th anniversary of Christie's birth with a special enactment of the author's most renowned



play, *The Mousetrap*.

"The students' performance is itself recognition of the library's principal benefactor, The Mousetrap Settlement Trust, which is primarily funded by the international royalties of

the murder mystery that has played continuously since opening in 1952," a spokesman said.

"Without the charity's contribution the refurbishment to bring state-of-the-art education technology to the 12th century St

Donat's Castle campus would not have been possible."

As founder and chairman of The Mousetrap Settlement Trust, Mr Prichard closed the ceremony by unveiling a bronze bust of Agatha Christie.

Gareth Thomas play is great entertainment, BUT BRIDGEND IS SHORT-CHANGED

WHEN Gareth Thomas launched his autobiography at an event in Cowbridge last year, he was asked about a proposed play on his life, entitled *Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage*.

He said that after working on the book, he wanted to do something different, and spoke about his desire to be involved in something positive for his home town, Bridgend.

He was interested in combining his life story with something that would redress the balance after the events of January and February 2008, which led to Bridgend being labelled "the suicide capital of the world".

It seemed an admirable wish, but a difficult trick to pull off. Nevertheless, National Theatre Wales asked Out of Joint theatre company, under the direction of Max Stafford Clark, to tackle it, and they decided to do the piece in writer Robin Soans' "verbatim documentary" style.

What you get is six excellent Welsh actors, three male and three female, who all at one time or another speak Gareth Thomas' words, and they also play a range of people who were affected by the suicides, or by Gareth's struggle over whether to come out in the ultra-male sport of rugby.

So, the play will run at the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff until March 7, and then goes on tour around Wales, finishing the Welsh run in Bridgend, with

Autism event
THE National Autistic Society's Cardiff and Vale branch will hold a coffee morning at Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, CF62 8DN on Saturday, March 14 (10.30am-12pm).

Though aimed at parents/carers of children/adults with autism, it may interest professionals working with families who live with autism.

See the branch website at www.cardiffandvaleautism.org.uk or email: nascardiff@nas.org.uk.

Meet Plaid
THE next free coffee morning organised by Plaid Cymru councillors in Dinas Powys will be held on Saturday, February 28 in Lee Hall, Britway Road, at 11am.

The future use of Old St Cyres school site and the Cross Common Bridge will be discussed.

by PHILIP IRWIN

three nights at the Sony Theatre in Bridgend College (March 26-28).

Then, through April, May and June, it tours England and I have to confess that after 10 minutes, my first thought was: "What are the English going to make of this?"

It's not the strong Welsh accents - Ruth Jones' *Stella* has done the groundwork there. It's the fact that much of the first 10 minutes is taken up with the history of Bridgend Rugby Club.

The glory days with JPR, Steve Fenwick et al, the reputation for scintillating back play, and the sense of pride in beating big city neighbours such as Cardiff or Swansea.

Then you get the machinations of professionalism, of regional rugby, the forced merger with Pontypridd, and the eventual demise of the Celtic Warriors. Is it suggested that the loss of civic pride played a part in the eventual spate of suicides? Never explicitly, but that is the subtext.

Despite its serious subject, the show is very funny, and there are plenty of laughs throughout this piece. Incidentally, the language is not for anyone's maiden aunt.

Once the rugby history lesson is over, we learn more about Gareth Thomas as he grows up and becomes aware that he is different.

Cast members play his parents and friends and we are introduced to two young Bridgend College students who, it turns out, are going to shine some light on the mindset of young Bridgend people.

Bridgend's own Kate-Elin Salt plays Meryl, a young girl coping with the trauma of her father's suicide, and trying to make sense of it. Katie-Elin does wide-eyed innocence better than anyone, and her character is the one that asks the most questions.

Her friend, Darcy, played by Lauren Roberts, has plenty of spirit, but also has mental health issues and during the play has a number of failed suicide attempts, until she comes to terms with life.

The staging is clever, with each cast member helpfully putting on a Welsh jersey with 'Thomas' on the back whenever they are playing Gareth.

They spend quite some time throwing a rugby ball around the stage and I'm pleased to say that the all-Welsh cast did not let down their nation - no one sent out a bad pass and no one dropped the ball! Two of the male cast, Rhys ap Iwan and

Patrick Brennan, have serious rugby experience, so they clearly taught their fellow cast members well.

Rhys and Patrick are both excellent, playing a range of characters, as are Daniel Hawksford and Bethan Witcomb.

As Gareth's story develops, it covers much the same ground as recent BBC documentaries, although there are several surprising revelations, which I'm not going to pass on here.

At the same time, Meryl and Darcy tell their stories, but they are running in parallel, rather than really connecting.

The writer and director try to overcome this with a rapid five-minute tie-up at the end, where Gareth visits the college to meet the girls, and each is inspired by the other's struggles.

Then the cast get together and sing "Guide Me O Thy Great Redeemer". They sing it damn well, but it is a bit too neat.

Nevertheless, the play provides great entertainment, is thought-provoking, and is much funnier than the subject matter suggests. Only a prude could sit there stonefaced.

So, why do I have that feeling that Bridgend was short-changed? Well, we journalists were kindly given a book with the script in full, and act two starts with a scene involving Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon, and Katie-Elin Salt's character Meryl.

It's quite long, and Madeleine Moon talks about the effect of the Bridgend suicides at the time, while Meryl gives an insight into how young people viewed the media storm.

The only problem is that this scene was dropped from the performance. I can only assume that the production team wanted a snappier opening to the second half.

So, who puts Bridgend's point of view? Step forward Neil Kinnock. After all, a Gwent MP, an EEC Commissioner and a member of the House of Lords is the obvious choice for an 'overview' of Bridgend.

What's more, the Neil Kinnock in this show throws off a few comments, such as "rock and roll killed the chapels" and "Scargill and Thatcher between them killed the mining industry" but seems more intent on getting to the bar for a pint.

It's a verbatim documentary, of course, so he clearly did say what he says on stage. I'm puzzled, however, by the way his character is drawn.

What is he meant to represent? Answers on a postcard please....

Beavers and Cubs scout around Westminster!



The youngsters take in the big city!

WHAT do you do with a group of Beavers and Cubs on the first day of half term? Hire a coach and go to London!

About a year ago, a Scout from 11th Barry Sea Scouts held an event to raise over £500 to fund the purchase of a new Shelter Box for the Young Shelter Box Appeal. Among the guests was Alun Cairns MP, who invited the group on a tour of Westminster Palace.

Early one wet and dark Monday morning, the Beavers, Cubs, helpers and Leaders of 11th Barry along with new District Commissioner Chris Parsons, boarded a coach for London.

First stop was the Imperial War Museum we walked along the Thames, past Lambeth Palace Gardens and on to Westminster Bridge.

At Westminster Hall we were met by Mr Cairns and Hannah Kentish, The Scouts Association's first ever UK Youth Commissioner. Mr Cairns told them about the history of the hall, including how Henry VIII used to play tennis in the hall, which fascinated

Youth Project AGM

PENARTH Youth Project will hold its AGM on Monday, March 9 at 5pm in Room 2, West House, Stanwell Road, Penarth. Refreshments will be served.

Cool Crafts

THERE will be Cool Crafts at Cowbridge Library on Saturdays from 10.30am-11.30am for children aged five and above (£2 per session).



them.

Five Beavers were invested into Cubs and Chris Parsons made presentations to the leaders: Bryan Foley, Barry Group Scout Leader received his 15 years service award. Assistant Beaver Section Leader, Stephanie Murray, was presented with her Wood Badge - the internationally recognised Scouting training award.

Following a fascinating tour of the Palace, which included the House of Lords and House of Commons, the party made our way back to our coach and started our return journey to Barry.

For further information, contact scouts.org.uk/home/ to find your nearest group.

Take a Peak at challenge for Ty Hafan!

THE GE Aviation Wales Welsh 3 Peaks challenge in aid of Ty Hafan, now in its 17th year, takes place on June 20 with walkers scaling Snowdon – the highest peak in Wales, Cadair Idris, and Pen-y-Fan – all within 15 hours.

More than 5,000 people have travelled from all over the world to take on the challenge and a total of £1,400,000 has been raised for Ty Hafan, the hospice for children in Wales, in Sully.

A group of dads of some of the children and young people supported by Ty Hafan will be entering teams once again this year.

Andrew Evans from Cardiff took part last year, a few months before his two-year-old son, Oscar, sadly lost his battle with Menkes Disease.

He said: "We wore Ty Hafan t-shirts with pictures of our children on the front and when we reached the top of Pen-y-Fan, we placed their teddies and soft toys down as a tribute to them. It was emotional and a special moment for us all."

Andrew, his partner, Jenn, along with their family friends have been fundraising tirelessly for Ty Hafan and have so far raised more than £10,000 for the charity.

"We are part of the Ty Hafan

family now," said Andrew. "We will never forget what they have done for us and will continue to raise funds in Oscar's memory so they can help more families like ours."

GE Aviation Wales has supported the Welsh 3 Peaks event since it started in 1998.

The first challenge was instigated by a group of GE Aviation Wales employees and a few members of the original team are still involved with the event.

Mike Patton, Managing Director said: "We are incredibly proud to support the GE Aviation Wales Welsh 3 Peaks challenge. Ty Hafan provides a vital service to the local community and the hospice supports hundreds of children and their families all year round."

"The challenge attracts people from all across Wales and beyond. The atmosphere on the day is fantastic, and it is great to see so many people coming together to raise money for such an important and worthwhile cause."

To enter, each team of four plus a designated driver is asked to pay a £50 registration fee, plus £800 in sponsorship. Register online at www.welsh3peaks.co.uk or call 029 2053 2283 for more information.

'HGVS SHOULD KEEP TO AGREED ROUTES'

LAST week, a GEM reader raised the issue of HGVS travelling through Barry, particularly with regard to routes taken to the Waterfront development in the town.

Here, **MARCUS GOLDSWORTHY**, of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, responds to the issues raised.

In response to the letter written to The GEM on February 19, I echo the sympathies sent to the families of those involved in the tragic accident in Bath.

I completely understand the concerns raised in the letter regarding the Waterfront development.

This is a huge project, involving the redevelopment of the West Pond and South Quay areas for residential, retail, and leisure uses, as well as a much-needed new link road to Barry Island, all of which is estimated to bring in around £230m of investment to the area.

Naturally, this means there will be an amount of construction traffic while work is ongoing.

The planning application which approved the redevelopment, required that the developers agree construction traffic and routes for heavy construction vehicles for the duration of the works.

The council has received a number of recent complaints regarding possible

breaches of the approved route and has contacted the developers to express its concern.

The developers have in turn reiterated to the council that they will be ensuring that all contractors adhere to the agreed routes.

It should of course be noted that these conditions will only control the routes taken by vehicles which are connected with the Waterfront development and cannot enforce routes taken by any other heavy vehicles.

Nevertheless, if it is proven that the relevant condition is being breached, the service of a formal 'Breach of Condition Notice' on the developers will be the next step.

Accordingly, we would encourage residents to contact council officers should they have any concerns that the development traffic for the Waterfront is not using the agreed route, via the contact centre on 01446 700111, the planning enforcement complaint form, or by emailing visible@valeofglam.org or n.gov.uk.

We are always open to working with the local community to iron out any issues, and to help make the Vale a better place for all.

We are very confident this project will be a huge boost, not just for Barry, but for the Vale as a whole.

Incinerator plan should be sent back, says group

BARRY & Vale Friends of the Earth say they are "deeply concerned" to see that Sunrise Renewables is hoping to locate an incinerator at Barry Dock. A previous application failed.

Keith Stockdale, a coordinator with the group, said: "The Docks Incinerator Action Group has sprung back into life and will fight this proposal right through."

"We hope to win full support from Barry Town Council at their planning meeting on March 3."

"The Vale Council should send the plan back as inadequate and tell Sunrise it does not fit with current aspirations for clean development and light industry on this part of the dock."

The Glamorgan GEM Food For Thought... ARE WE IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF DINING OUT?

A HOST of favourable factors mean there has never been a better time to dine out. In recent years there have been a huge improvements in British cuisine.

There are several reasons for this. In a time of austerity, restaurants and gastro-pubs have become highly competitive. Also, thanks to 'cooking evangelism' on TV, diners have become more knowledgeable and demanding (not a bad thing).

Here in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend, we now have a rich variety of dining experiences, all vying for new clients

as eateries are forced to become more innovative and specialise in a way they would never have dreamed of in the distant past.

Today's chefs will offer specialities such as adventurous seafood dishes and exotic desserts. In fact, foreign cuisine is very well featured on local menus – and it all adds up to even greater choice for the discerning consumer.

Compare these changes to days of yore when, apart from a few 'eccentric' exceptions, dining out appeared to be exclusively about familiar, traditional dishes.

Foodies now have a little extra help, too! They can check The GEM and restaurant websites to see what is on offer, and the local authority puts 'scores on the doors' to let local people know how well an outlet is run.

Restaurant prices are keener than ever, too and it all adds up to an inescapable conclusion – there's never been a better time to dine out!

The Gallery named as the top 'sustainable restaurant' in Wales

A Barry bistro which is one of only a handful in the UK to serve British grown tea, and has plans to become the first brewer of beer using Welsh-grown hops, has been named the most sustainable restaurant in Wales.

The Gallery's owner Barnaby Hibbert, received the award from Raymond Blanc, President of the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA), at the Sustainable Restaurant Awards, in London on Monday, February 23.

Serving organic vegetables grown locally by a charity that employs people with learning difficulties, complemented by foraged ingredients and seafood landed by

boat captains who are friends of the owner, helped the 80-cover bistro and bar win the award for the second year running.

Among other factors that contributed to The Gallery's success, were the biodynamic and organic wines and exclusive Welsh beer.

The Clink, at HMP Cardiff, the prison training restaurant, and Enoch's Fish and Chips, in Llandudno, were named as runners-up.

The theme of the event was the Future of Food and the 250 guests were served cricket canapés prepared by Wahaca, before sitting down to enjoy an exquisite two-course menu prepared by James Golding, Chef Director of THE PIG and served by a team of graduates from The Clink Charity.

Warm Welsh tastes on a very cold night!

THE Bont Faen WI welcomed Sian Roberts to the February meeting – to talk about Welsh food and drink.

Members who ventured out on a cold, wet night, were treated to a glass of locally-produced perry, which was a delicious start to the meeting.

Sian has been showcasing Welsh products since working with the WDA, bringing the unique tastes of laverbread, Welsh cakes, cawl and Welsh cheeses to food festivals around Europe and further afield. Members sampled dried laverbread

in a dip and tasty oatcakes.

The February social was a trip to the New Theatre to see *One Man, Two Governors*, which was very funny and enjoyable.

All the forthcoming events are detailed in the Bont Faen WI newsletter, which was available at the meeting, the next couple of months being full of interesting social and fundraising events.

We are hoping to repeat the success with the May Fair Lucky Dip. Our next meeting on March 9 is on the subject of card and other fraud awareness. Visitors are welcome.

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POSITIVE REPORT ON COUNCIL'S PROGRESS IN AUSTERE TIMES

LAST month, I wrote about the decision of the Welsh Government not to allow the council to continue to explore a voluntary merger with Bridgend Council.

This month, I am pleased to confirm that the Vale Council has received a grant of £1.2m from the Welsh Government in recognition of its high achievement for 2013/14.

The award relates to the council's Outcome Agreement, which covers five key areas – supporting the local economy, increasing school attainment, improving the lives of older people, improving social housing, and reducing landfill.

This positive review resulted in the authority qualifying for the maximum award available. I am, therefore, pleased at the Welsh Government's recognition of our success, which serves to demonstrate that the Vale of Glamorgan Council is a high achieving local authority.

This success is a testament to the hard work of officers who continue to deliver high quality services at a time of unprecedented financial pressure. Their hard work ensures that Vale residents continue to receive the best services that we can deliver.

SCHOOLS' STRATEGY

Last month, I indicated that we would report on the continuing school investment programme and the consultation in relation to the secondary

education provision in Barry.

This follows on from the successes at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, the Penarth Learning Community, and our decision to create a new 'learning community' in Llantwit Major.

The recent report recommended further consultation on the proposed £35m transformation of secondary education in Barry. The proposals considered by cabinet this week include the creation of a Welsh medium campus for Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Nant Talwg on the current Bryn Hafren site, which is large enough to allow for the required expansion of Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in line with the projected increase in pupil numbers.

The proposal would also lead to the creation of a mixed-sex English medium campus on the current Barry Comprehensive, Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Nant Talwg site.

The planned investment would see over £18m committed to improving the new mixed English campus and nearly £17m spent on the new Ysgol Nant Talwg and Bro Morgannwg campus.

This approach is being taken for several reasons. When we consulted on mixed-sex schooling there was strong support for co-education. We had initially envisioned a single mixed comprehensive school split across two sites.

However, as we began to develop a detailed plan for delivering this, it became clear that a reorganisation of English medium education in Barry also presented the opportunity to expand

Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and by doing so, enable the high performing school to meet the ever increasing demand for Welsh-medium education in the Vale.

The new proposal will not only provide first class English and Welsh medium secondary schools with sufficient capacity to accommodate future generations of schoolchildren, but also addresses the concerns that many staff and parents raised about the difficulties of splitting a school across two sites.

Even in such austere times, the Labour-led administration is absolutely committed to providing top quality education facilities for all children in the Vale.

It is, therefore, proposed that a full consultation will commence on this new proposal from May 11 for eight weeks, after which a further report will come back to cabinet for consideration.

We believe that the proposed changes will be the final piece in the puzzle in terms of providing the Vale with the highest standard of secondary education we can deliver.

However, as always, the views of our residents are paramount, and if there is no support for the proposal, we will reconsider the issue and look to see if the status quo will have to remain.

As there is much speculation and ill-informed rumour on this subject, I would urge everyone interested to read the cabinet report in full, which can be found on the council's website - valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Full details of what is being proposed

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of the
Vale of
Glamorgan
Council



and how we would plan to implement this, along with the answers to many frequently asked questions, will be provided to all parents and pupils likely to be affected by any changes ahead of the consultation period.

I am also pleased to confirm that youth provision in Barry has been brought under one roof at The Hub, providing a six days-a-week facility where young people learn valuable new skills.

BEACH HUTS

I have previously mentioned the work at Barry Island and as it was recently half term we decided to have a 'Beach Huts Open Week', giving the opportunity for residents and visitors to see the new beach huts, before they become available for public hire later this spring.

It was a joy to see so many happy and smiling children and families out walking around Barry Island, using the

new Eastern Prom to ride scooters and bicycles safely and trying out their skills on the new climbing wall.

The huts will be available to hire all year round from March 23. During spring and summer they will be available from 10am until 8pm (10pm during peak weeks) at a cost of £20 per day for the smaller huts and £40 per day for the larger huts.

During autumn and winter, they will be available from 10am until 6pm at a cost of £15 and £30 per day, which can be booked in advance online via Contact One Vale.

The larger huts will also be available to community groups and commercial traders during certain weeks of the year.

Finally, I have reluctantly accepted the resignation of Coun Rob Curtis as a cabinet member because he could not devote as much time to his cabinet role as he wanted.

Coun Curtis' departure will be a great loss and I thank him for his input and support over the past three years.

As a result, and following on from reducing the cabinet from 10 posts to seven in 2012, a change which has saved the council in excess of £100k, I have decided to further reduce the size of the cabinet to six.

At a time of significant financial constraints being placed on the council by central government, we currently have to find considerable savings and I believe it is only right that the council's political leadership should lead by example.

Double duty no obstacle for Penarth hockey team!

TWO games in as many days proved to be no obstacle for Penarth Hockey Club's first XI, who used a little fortune and a lot of fortitude to claim back-to-back wins, while the seconds also won make it a successful weekend all round.

BRISTOL & WEST 2-4 PENARTH

Penarth travelled across the Severn on Saturday to face a Bristol & West team that had only lost one game at home all season, knowing that a win against their mid-table rivals would stand them in good stead in pursuit of a top five finish.

Despite the odds appearing to be against them, the Bears started strongly, playing some very good passing hockey, and it wasn't long before their pressure produced the opening goal, albeit a scrappy affair that saw Chris McCarthy eventually slot the ball in the top corner.

Buoyed by their breakthrough, Penarth continued to put the West Country team under pressure and were rewarded with a penalty corner, which was expertly drag-flicked straight down the middle past the helpless keeper.

Although Penarth appeared to be fully in control, the home side broke against the run of play to score a goal with their first chance of the game, reducing the deficit and leaving the visitors shaken. With their tails up, Bristol increased the pressure and capitalised on some poor clearances to claim a penalty corner of their own.

Although Mark Harris saved the initial strike, Bristol reacted better to the rebound, tapping in a bouncing ball to level the scores.

With the game now in the balance, both teams attempted to push forward in search of the halftime advantage, but it was Penarth who claimed the crucial goal as Chris Baker attacked from the right and took full advantage of Sam Chick's intelligent diversionary run to find Tom Parkinson unmarked at the far post.

Determined not to dent their home record further, Bristol committed more men forward from the start of the second period, putting Penarth under pressure and creating several chances, but the Vale side dug in and a committed performance from the defence weathered the early storm.

Penarth then started to regain control of the game, creating chances of their own, but it took an improbable goal to settle the game. Beginning with a simple one-two between Baker and Tom Haran, the former found himself tight on the byline, but his speculative cross deceived the Bristol keeper and crept in off the back post to make the score 4-2 in the visitors' favour.

CHELTHENHAM 'B' 2-4 PENARTH
Perhaps complacent after their Saturday success, Penarth started slowly against bottom club Cheltenham and soon found themselves 2-0 down.

Somehow, the visitors got to halftime without conceding again and used the break to refocus. Taking the game by the scruff of the neck, it quickly became one-way traffic in the second period and, following some good interplay down the right flank, Joe Wells found Owen Hopkins in the 'D' and the forward smashed the ball first time past the Cheltenham 'keeper.

A second goal followed quickly as Sam Docherty threw a big aerial towards the Cheltenham area, where Wells was again on hand to set up Chris Baker for an easy finish.

Penarth were now in ruthless mood, with Baker gradually taking control of proceedings, punishing some poor defending and smashing the ball past the hapless Cheltenham keeper to give the visitors their first lead of the afternoon.

Baker also played a part in the fourth and final Penarth goal, forcing the home keeper into a save only for the ball to bounce back to Sam Chick, who slapped the ball home to secure a vital three points and complete a successful foray into England for the Welsh club, who rise to fourth in De Cymru & The Marches 1 with four games to play.

PENARTH 'A' 2-0 CAREW

While the senior side was venturing across the bridge, the 2nd XI welcomed an improving Carew side, determined to avenge a contentious 5-2 defeat in the reverse fixture.

Although the visitors took time to find their feet on the tricky Barry pitch, the opening exchanges were evenly matched, with Dave Watkins and Matt Birch putting pressure on the Carew goal and the Penarth defence coping ably with any attacks the west Wales side managed to put together.

Knowing that they needed to make a breakthrough before the interval, Penarth began to play some nice passing hockey, linking through James Davies, Dave Thompson and the industrious Rob Harrison to increase the pressure on Carew's defence, but it was a quick move down the left flank that eventually produced the opening goal, as Birch found Watkins in the 'D' and the veteran finished coolly.

With their confidence up, Penarth took the game to the visitors for the remainder of the half, and were rewarded with a second goal when an illegal high stick on the goaline resulted in a penalty flick, which Birch converted nonchalantly to give the Vale side a 2-0 advantage at the break.

Carew, however, continued to pose a threat and Penarth knew that further goals would be needed to put the game beyond doubt.

Despite a brief snowstorm, the Bears continued to create chances through youngsters Sam Salisbury and Rory Vizard but, in typical fashion, failed to

BRIDGING A GAP FOR TY HAFAN

SULLY Bridge Club has again turned up trumps for Ty Hafan – members have a bookstall, bring and buy – which they keep well stocked and when it gets to £50, it goes to help Ty Hafan and they start over again.

CHESS TEAMS' DOUBLE BLOW

THERE were only two games for the Barry Chess Club, both played at North Cardiff – with the Gambits taking on the league's only 100 per cent team, the Titans, and the Knock Out Cup quarter final.

The Barry Chess club has an enviable record in cup competitions. In the summer version of the KO Cup, we were runners-up in 2010 and have been the holders since 2012 – but this is a new and bigger tournament. With a very strong team we expected to win on both the bottom boards and merely needed a minimum of one draw from the top two boards.

Unfortunately, we were

unsuccessful, losing both games on the top two boards. This meant the match was drawn 2-2, so on tie-break, bottom board elimination, we were the team eliminated.

We wish the North Cardiff side all the best for their semi-final away to Pontypridd.

For the Gambits, it was a tough, but enjoyable trip to North Cardiff. As expected, the champions-elect heavily outgraded us on every board but we can be proud of our team and individual performances. I am sure we will each have learned something and Jason Grice and Nick Mavroyenneas will have picked up several grading points for their hard earned draws.

The match result was a 4-1 win

for the Titans, strengthening their lead at the top of the division.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards – whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival. For more details, visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>.

Phil Jones, Club Secretary

Emphatic win for Cowbridge team

PLAYING in the worst weather conditions of the season Cowbridge under-16s overcame high wind, rain and sleet to defeat neighbours Llantwit Major by six tries to nil, the final score 32-0.

The tries came from Tom Bailey, Osian John, Harrison Stevens, James Holder, Sam Palmer and Sean Davies, who also converted one of the tries, as Cowbridge stretched their unbeaten home record to three

months. Outstanding in the backs were Joe Nott and Kyle May Rees, while Charlie Martin, Harry Hopkins and Will Cousins were the pick of the pack; top tacklers were Matthew Keating and Josh Evans.

Top try scorers to date are Dan Bunney (7), Sean Davies (5), Sam Palmer, James Holder and Cai Evans (4) and Harrison Stevens (3).

Cai Evans has scored 68 points (25 conversions and six penalties).

AD



Ospreys pitch in at Pencoed RFC.

Ospreys players give Pencoed Club smart new coat of paint...

A TEAM from the Ospreys descended on Pencoed RFC – to give the clubhouse a fresh lick of paint as part of their 'Pitch In' campaign.

The rugby region players have been offering to 'Pitch In' and get their hands dirty with any odd jobs, volunteering or good causes in Ospreyia throughout the Six Nations period.

Dan Baker, Ryan Bevington and Matthew Dwyer were among the players who joined in with the painting at Pencoed, giving the club house a new lease of life.

Chris Cadogan of Pencoed RFC, said: "We really enjoyed having the boys turn up and help

out for the day. They were really enthusiastic and got stuck into the painting. It's great to see the players getting involved with the community at a grassroots level, as it provides such a good example for our younger players."

Andrew Hore, CEO of Ospreys Rugby, said: "It's important to us to show that we are a community-minded organisation and to reiterate how important our supporters are to us, which is why our 'Pitch In' campaign has proved to be so popular.

"Our players enjoy getting out and about in the community and we are delighted to be able to help the players at Pencoed with

their clubhouse project this week." The players carry out one project per week between now and the end of March and are keen for members of the public to get in touch to let them know how they can help out with their initiatives.

The Ospreys welcome suggestions for suitable projects, and are asking members of the community to nominate individuals, clubs or organisations that will welcome the assistance.

GH
• Do you know anyone who deserves a helping hand? Email your requests to: Ospreyspitchin@ospreysrugby.com (And don't forget to say you read it in The GEM!)

Porthcawl welcomes best of Celtic music and dance

PORTHCAWL will be welcoming the best of Celtic folk music and dance this weekend, for a three-day festival, based at the Grand Pavilion,

Cwlm Celtaidd, Wales' Interceltic Festival will take place from tomorrow (Friday, February 27) to Sunday (March 1).

It will see a host of activities, including concerts, workshops, formal and informal music sessions and street dancing, and the popular 'Beach Ceilidh' lunch time on Sunday!

Performers will be coming to Porthcawl from the Isle of Man, Brittany, Ireland, Scotland, Cornwall and, of course, Wales.

Saturday sees the inclusion of two additions to the festival programme.

In the morning, a competition will be held for the first time to choose the 'Young Musician of the Festival'.

Children and young people between the ages of 10 and 18 will be invited to play an unaccompanied



ABOVE: Performers from a previous Celtic festival on Porthcawl seafront. (Photo by Glyn Evans).

traditional Celtic melody on an instrument of their choice.

The panel of adjudicators will comprise professional folk musicians from the Celtic countries.

This competition is sponsored by the Principality, with Ewenny Pottery making a special commemorative plate for the winner.

On Saturday afternoon, Siwsann George's friends and family come together to

perform and pay tribute to her on the 10th anniversary of her death.

In celebration of St David's Day, at 2pm on the Sunday, there will be special concert featuring some of Wales' best folk talents.

With the ever popular Ar Log will be Robin Huw Bowen, who has been responsible for introducing the Welsh triple harp and its music to thousands all over the world, the enchanting Gwyneth Glyn, Hogle'r Berfeddwlad, the Bro

Taf Clog dancers, and Cór y Cwm.

This young choir from the Rhondda Valley, won the accolade of being the Choir of Festival in the Sir Gâr National Eisteddfod in 2014.

The winner of the competition for the Young Musician of the Festival will also be taking part.

For further details, go to www.cwlmceltaidd.org, or contact the festival office on 07855 373098.

POLICE SEEK MEN FOLLOWING RACIAL ABUSE ALLEGATION

POLICE in Bridgend are appealing for witnesses after an allegation that an Asian taxi driver was racially abused in Bridgend.

The 59-year-old victim was allegedly abused by four men he had collected from Derwen Road, Bridgend at around 2.35am on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14.

The police say the driver, who is from Bridgend, was abused as he drove the four men to their final destinations of Ogmore Vale, Blackmill and Nantymoel.

Anyone with information is asked to call South Wales Police on 101, quoting reference number 1500052429. Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be called anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Star Bellamy's lesson for the Newton pupils!



CHILDREN at Newton League Reading Stars Cymru, a Primary School are being motivated to read for pleasure, and improve their literacy skills across the curriculum, by using their enthusiasm for football and the high profile of the Premier League.

The school uses football themed reading activities as a way to improve and boost literacy skills for children who love football.

For this week's lesson 'fixture' the children had a visit from Welsh football star Craig Bellamy, who spoke about the importance of reading and learning in school.

He gave the children an inspiring talk about always aiming high in all aspects of school, life and football! The children asked him a whole range of questions and invited him to pick his favourite book from their Football Book Library.

St David's Day at market

Residents and visitors are being encouraged to come along and celebrate all things Welsh at a special St David's market in Maesteg this weekend.

The market's buildings, which underwent a £2.5m revamp last year, will be bathed in red light and decorated with giant daffodils this Saturday, February 28.

Welsh food and crafts, children's entertainment and live music from Stacey Blythe and the 2 Tones are among the attractions for shoppers, who can pop along any time between 10am and 5pm.

The St David's weekend market is the latest initiative by the Maesteg Town Centre Partnership, which has been set up to promote local goods and services by providing training to businesses and support for events.

The first of these took

place before Christmas, in partnership with the town council, with an outdoor ice rink in the Market Square attracting over 700 paying skaters.

Other events are being planned for 2015 and 2016, after the

Welsh Government and Maesteg Town Council agreed to put funding forward for the two-year project, which is being supported by Bridgend County Borough Council's Regeneration team.

From the end of March, a Friday travelling market will also be trialled, in a bid to attract more shoppers and help to raise the profile of Maesteg market even further.

WI members take to the dartboard!

THE February meeting of Southerndown WI had to be cancelled at short notice, unfortunately. The following week, however, almost half of the membership were able to attend a coffee afternoon hosted by the committee.

Members were reminded about the afternoon tea in Llanerch Vineyard on Wednesday, March 18 and the trip to Denman College on Tuesday, May 5. Please give your name to any committee member as soon as possible if you would like to attend either event.

Southerndown WI entered a team in the Glamorgan Federation darts competition. Although it was a new activity for some members and the team had only been practising for a few weeks, they thoroughly enjoyed

themselves, winning two of their matches.

In one of the matches, they were delighted to beat former title holders and in the other match, Jackie scored 48, to finish the match with a double 16! Team members thank Mark Lewis, landlord of the Fox and Hounds in St Brides Major, for opening the pub to allow us to practice and for lending sets of darts to the members.

The walking group held an enjoyable walk from Swansea to Mumbles – the weather was cold, but dry enough to sit outside for lunch, on arriving in Mumbles.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12 at 7.15pm in the Church Hall in St Brides Major – all welcome. The coffee morning is being held in Jane's house on March 5 at 10.30am.

PM



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SOCIAL CARE LEADER HITS OUT... 'We have to change the DNA of Wales'

A SOCIAL care leader has welcomed new legislation to beef up regulation of the sector, but warned it will not work unless there is a "fundamental change of culture."

Mario Kreft MBE, Chair of Care Forum Wales, said it was vital to "change the DNA in Wales" to ensure everybody involved in the social care sector in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan worked together in collaboration.

Care Forum Wales are also calling for the people from local authorities and health boards who commission social care services to be regulated so that their decisions are based on quality not price.

The new law to strengthen the regulation and inspection of the social care sector was announced by Health Minister Mark Drakeford AM.

According to the Welsh Government, care home owners in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan will become more accountable for the services they provide to protect children and adults.

Mr Drakeford said the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Bill, would put delivering success at the heart of a "revised and streamlined legal framework."

Mr Kreft said: "Care Forum Wales would want to support the overall thrust of the legislation. It is some time since the current regulations and legal system were put in place and, as the minister said, we've got many more people with complex needs receiving services at home."

"The people living in care homes have very complex needs, much more so than 20 years ago. It is therefore absolutely the right time, on the back of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, which has created this new framework, that we now match that with a new regulatory framework, and there are certain aspects that we would certainly welcome."

"But there are also areas of concern. The reality is that in Wales today we have a struggling health and social care system. It's struggling because of demand and because we are not harnessing the resources that we already have at our disposal."

"Unfortunately, this new legislation will change little unless we really harness all the resources at our disposal and particularly recognise that social care is a fundamental cornerstone of the NHS in Wales."

"Independent social care in Wales is being decimated by flawed commissioning practices which put price before quality."

"As a result, morale in the sector among providers and the workforce is very low."

"The progress that we've made is lamentable. Yes, there are pockets of good practice, but that's not good enough for a small nation of three million people. We should have got this right by now."

"This new law will go some way, but if we don't fundamentally change the way we do business, if we don't fundamentally change the way we work collaboratively, if we don't fundamentally value providers and their workforce and just hit them when it goes wrong, then quite frankly this will not make the progress and provide the framework that the minister wants it to do," Mr Kreft concluded.

FOOTBALL CLUB CABARET NIGHT

A CABARET night featuring 'Forte' is to be held at Dinas Powys Athletic Club.

The event takes place on Friday, April 17 (7.30pm) and tickets are £7.50 per person.

The evening is in aid of Dinas Powys FC, St Cyres redevelopment bid.

To book your tickets, contact Natalie Garland on 07811 494909.

Silent auction

St Curig's Church at Porthkerry is holding a silent auction at 7pm in Rhosce Community Centre tomorrow (Friday, February 27).

Entrance fee is £3 with a free glass of wine. All proceeds will go towards restoring of the unique organ at the church.

KNIGHTS

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The Cottage, Highfield Close, Barry - £174,950
2 bedroom property, set in an exclusive gated community on Park Road. Hallway, living room, modern fitted kitchen/dining room benefiting from integral appliances. Ground floor bathroom. Ensuite shower room to master bedroom. UPVC DG and GCH. Garden. Two allocated parking spaces. EPC rating: D.



Beaconsfield, Barry - £114,950
2 bedroom apartment with views across the coastline. Porch, hallway, living room. Kitchen/breakfast room. Shower room. UPVC double glazing. GCH. Garage nearby in a block. No chain. EPC rating: E.



Wolfe Close, Barry - £125,000
3 bedroom mid link property set in a cul de sac. Entrance hallway, living room, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. UPVC DG, combi boiler. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway. EPC rating: C.



Hellas Drive, Barry - £350,000
Executive 4 bedroom detached on Highlight Park development. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room. Downstairs WC, bathroom and ensuite shower room to master bedroom. UPVC DG, GCH. Generous gardens, driveway for up to 6 cars. Double garage with remote control door.



Coronation Street, Barry - £129,950
Three bedroom end terrace in the heart of Barry. Entrance hallway, through living room, dining room, kitchen. Family bathroom to first floor. UPVC DG, GCH. Enclosed rear garden. No chain. EPC rating: C.



St Pauls Avenue - £150,000
4 bedroom bay fronted terrace property. West end of Barry. Entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/dining room. Family bathroom. Bedroom 4 with ensuite WC. UPVC DG, GCH. Enclosed forecourt and rear garden. Basement area ideal for storage. EPC rating: D.



Sunnydale, Colcot Rd, Barry - £279,000
Extended 4 bedroom semi set on a generous plot situated towards the north of Barry. Hallway, cloakroom, 3 recep rooms, kitchen, family bathroom, UPVC double glazing. GCH. Rear garden and forecourt - offroad parking for 3/4 vehicles.



Kathleen Street, Barry - £129,950
3 bedroom mid terrace in popular Park Crescent. Entrance hallway, living room, kitchen. Ground floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden. UPVC, GCH. No chain.



Heol Cilffrydd, Barry - £94,500
2 bedroom ground floor apartment. Waterfront development, communal hallway, entrance hallway. Living room with french doors leading to small patio area. Kitchen, bathroom. UPVC double glazing, electric heating, communal grounds. One allocated parking space and visitors parking. No chain.



Oban Street, Barry - £109,950
Traditional 2 bedroom bay front property. Porch, hallway, lounge/dining room. Kitchen, first floor bathroom. Majority double glazing. GCH. Enclosed forecourt and rear courtyard. No chain. EPC rating: E.



Lakeside, Barry - £399,950
4 bedroom semi detached. Knapp area overlooking the lake and coastline beyond. Entrance porch, hallway, lounge, sitting room, dining room, play room. Modern fitted kitchen, utility room. Bathroom suite, separate WC. Master bedroom benefiting from roof terrace. UPVC DG. Garden to front and rear. Driveway providing off road parking for 2 vehicles. EPC rating: E.



Small Holdings, Port Rd West, Barry - £259,950
Built in 1911, 4 bedroom semi set on a generous level plot. Entrance hallway, 2 recep rooms, kitchen, utility area. First floor bathroom, UPVC double glazing. GCH, beautiful, mature enclosed gardens to front and rear. No chain. EPC rating: E.



Pontypridd Rd, Barry - £309,950
Well presented detached dormer bungalow, generous plot. West end of Barry. Porch, hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen/dining room, utility room, bathroom, 3 beds/office to the ground floor. Master bed ensuite to first floor. UPVC DG, GCH. Front & rear gardens. Driveway for 2/5. Single garage. EPC rating: C.



Main St, Barry - £94,950
2 bedroom mid terrace property, east end of Barry. Hallway, lounge/dining room. Kitchen, first floor bathroom. Office, enclosed rear garden. UPVC double glazing. GCH. No chain. EPC rating: D.



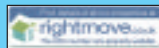
Kingsland Crescent, Barry
NOTICE OF OFFER - Knights Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £46,000 for Flat 3, 86 Kingsland Crescent, Barry CF62 4JS. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Knights Estate Agents, 84 High Street, Barry CF62 7DX. 01446 700222 before exchange of contracts.

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**NEW**

WINCHESTER CLOSE, BARRY
 Modern semi detached, living room, kitchen overlooking rear, three bedrooms, bathroom WC, side access. No chain. EPC=D.
£89,950

NEW

CROSS STREET, BARRY
 Well presented, bay fronted traditional, through living room, separate dining room, spacious bathroom, 3 double bedrooms, No chain. ER=E
£139,950

NEW

ST OSWALDS ROAD, BARRY
 Mid terraced traditional, through living/dining room, replacement kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, viewing essential ER=E
£112,500

NEW

TORBAY TERRACE, RHOOSE
 3 Bedroom dwelling, far reaching views, near the train station. Shops and schools are in close proximity. The coastal path leads to beaches. Porch, entrance hallway. Viewing essential
£155,950

NEW

TRINITY STREET, BARRY
 3 Bedrooms, well presented, bay fronted traditional, spacious lounge/diner, replacement kitchen/breakfast, enclosed rear garden. UPVC DG - GCH via combi. ER=D.
£129,950

NEW

WOODLANDS RD, BARRY
 Mid terraced traditional, WC cloakroom, living room/diner, spacious kitchen/diner, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, lane access - no chain. ER=D
£152,500

NEW

GLANY MOR, BARRY
 2nd floor apartment, 2 bedrooms - ensuite, approx. 16ft living room, balcony with water views, gas central heating, offered with no chain, designated parking. EPC=C
£109,950

NEW

PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY
 Replacement roof 2014, mid terraced, living room, dining room to kitchen, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, enclosed rear garden, street parking, UPVC - DG & GC heating via combi ER=D.
£79,950

NEW

PRINCES STREET, BARRY
 Mid terraced, in need of modernisation, 2 reception rooms, 2 bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom, gas central heating, ideal west end location.
£105,000

NEW PRICE

YMCA BUILDINGS, WOODLANDS RD, BARRY
 1 bedroom, first floor apartment, living room, open plan kitchen - integrated appliances, designated car parking, town centre location, no chain. ER=C.
£69,950

NEW PRICE

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
 End of terrace, double bay traditional, living room, dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast, 3 double bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, lane access. ER=D.
£144,950

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GEORGE STREET, BARRY
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Defeat is tough to take for Porthcawl RFC



ABOVE: Sam Parker passes to Gareth Rees, while RIGHT: Jordan Skidmore passes the ball out.
PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS

THIS match between Porthcawl and Tonmawr can only be described as a let-down, with a result that could well have gone Porthcawl's way, although that would have been tough on Tonmawr.

The visitors are a much-changed outfit that struggled earlier in the season and have become a very workmanlike team that simply does the basics well.

With their combative and well-drilled front eight creating the necessary platform, they quickly got into their stride and were soon 12 points to the good, with two tries, one converted, making the best of their chances, whereas the seaweeds seemed strangely out of sorts and unable to finish theirs.

The match, hardly a stand-out affair throughout, saw Porthcawl get on the scoreboard in the form of a penalty kicked by Jordan Skidmore when full-back Gareth Rees was tackled head high, with a try almost certain. The referee's decision not to award a yellow card was explained after the match as being serious enough for a penalty but not a card, when a penalty try wouldn't have been inappropriate.

At 3-12, the halftime score suggested that Porthcawl might yet climb back into the match and some 10 minutes into the second spell, Rees got his just rewards when he skilfully finished off a determined Porthcawl surge wide down the right, for a super try, which was bettered only Skidmore's outstanding conversion off the touchline in a difficult wind. At 10-12, it was



now game on.

Then Tonmawr decided that they would not buckle and took advantage of some absent home defence to score a converted try and Porthcawl were again chasing the game two scores adrift at 10-19. The Seaweeds upped their game and when Skidmore scythed through midfield following Lloyd Long's initial break of the gain-line, centre Jacob Thomas cantered home to score a stunning under the posts for Skidmore to convert for 17-19.

Yet again Tonmawr got it together and with their fifth try with time running out seemed to signal the end for Porthcawl at 17-24 before Skidmore grabbed a try that he couldn't convert for 22-24 well into injury time.

One more opportunity presented itself with seconds left as Porthcawl were awarded a penalty for Skidmore to have the opportunity with a very difficult penalty; however his kick fell short and the visitors greeted the final whistle for a win, which on balance, they probably deserved.

The disappointment was palpable in the home dressing room and frustrated coach Rhys James will want to get his side up to speed before the visit to Nantaffyllon this week.

UNDER-10S

Porthcawl 35, Pencoed 21 - try scorers Luke Roberts (3), Stefan Yardley and Will Jarman; conversions by Luke Roberts, Teejay Vickery, Cade Pearce, Stefan Yardley, Ben Pownall.

UNDER-9S

Porthcawl RFC under-9s drew 4-4 with

Kenfig Seconds are too strong for Tondy RFC

KENFIG HILL seconds put on a powerful performance to overcome Tondy 14-0 in a tight match played in excellent spirit.

The Mules played the first half with the wind in their favour and dominated territory from the outset. What was also apparent was the aggressive defence from the Mules with brothers Shaun and Matthew Burnell to the fore. Tondy played their part with intelligent kicking and also looking to move the ball wide whenever possible.

There was only one score in the first half when second row Gareth Russell was on hand to crash over from two metres following a storming break from centre Rhodri Clarke. The try was converted by fellow centre Dale Smith.

Tondy upped their game at the beginning of the second half and the Mules struggled to get out of their 22. But, as in the first half, the Mules' resolute defence coupled with fine work at the breakdown prevented Tondy from getting close to the whitewash.

The Mules looked to

run the ball out of defence on numerous occasions but Tondy's backline were well organised and were able to contain all attempts to break clear.

The Mules' second and final try came with the last move of the game when they put together a number of phases of play and the ball was moved wide to right winger Dan Heatley, who threw three outrageous dummies before finding replacement outside half Nicky Giles, who was on hand to take the scoring pass to dive over for a fine try. Giles added the conversion and the referee blew for the end of the game.

The man of the match was awarded to Matthew Burnell with flanker Morgan Griffiths running him a close second. A special mention also to flanker and skipper Dan Shaddis, who played at prop forward for the first 65 minutes of the game.

This was an excellent game of rugby, well refereed and played in good spirit. The skill levels on view from both teams shows again the quality of second team rugby from the top teams in the district.

DHD

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB

IT is with great pleasure that we congratulate Tony Disley and Roger Penton on their recent win at Llandrindod Wells in the Welsh senior team trials, an outstanding achievement. They will represent Wales in the Teltcher Trophy in Gormanstown, Ireland.

The results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, February 18: 1st Linda Pinnock and Denis Mottram; 2nd Alan Heath and Rob Forman; 3rd John Beard and Liam Sheridan. Winners on handicap Alan Heath and Rob Forman.

Thursday, February 19: 1st Mari Jones and Ann Fox; 2nd Stuart Davies and Colin Lewis; 3rd Diane Reynolds and Leila O'Hagan.

Friday, February 20: 1st Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams; 2nd Dian Jones and Pat Cogbill; 3rd John Henson and Terry Dolan. Winners on handicap Mari Jones and Irene Wickham.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it

helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

Further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

TG

Porthcawl bridge club

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

Thursday, February 19: First - Trish Saunders & Sue Anthony; second - Keith Davison & Tony Haworth.

On Thursday, March 2, there will be a presentation on 'Two-Suited Overcalls' - 6.10pm prompt, visitors welcome.

The club meets three times a week - Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, 7pm - 10.15pm - and visitors are welcome at any time. To contact the club, call our secretary, Trish, on 01656 785794.

TH

A relentless Abercynon defeat the Bridgend Sports under-15s

RELENTLESS is certainly a word that sums up Bridgend Sports under-15s' fixture against Abercynon.

Relentless rain that made conditions difficult for both teams, a relentless amount of injuries and knocks for the Sports, with five in total, and a relentless number of points scored in favour of the visitors, Abercynon.

The Sports were always going to be in for a tough match after their defeat from earlier in the season but nonetheless the Sports never gave up throughout this testing match.

As anticipated, Abercynon started the match strongly with lots of early territory and it didn't take too long for them to open the scoring after benefiting from an advantage from a Sports knock on.

Minutes after Abercynon extended their lead to 12 points when one of their players showed good attacking prowess by kicking the ball past the Sports defender to score under the posts.

Attacking opportunities were now hard to come by for the Sports due to a mix of the weather and the strength of the opposition, and the Sports soon found themselves 17-0 down due to an Abercynon maul which resulted in one of their players scoring in the left hand corner of the pitch.

The visitors' fourth try of the half came thanks to some patient build up play by Abercynon which saw one of their players score after several phases.

Unfortunately for the Sports, a

comeback was now looking increasingly unlikely as a consequence of a fifth first half try for Abercynon which saw one of their players score from the Sports' 10 metre line. The Sports were trailing by 27 points going into the second half.

The second half was even more difficult than the first as the rain continued to fall and the pitch started to cut up.

Due to the first half injuries both teams could not field a 15, so the second half was 14 against 13 in benefit of the Sports.

However, unluckily for the Sports, this did not put a stop to Abercynon's threat as one of their backs showed good skill to score a converted try under the posts.

Abercynon's second try of the second half saw the ball being kicked into the corner of the try line where an Abercynon player dived on it at the second attempt to put the away side 39-0 up.

The visitor's eighth and final try of the match came when their outside half spotted a gap in the Sports defence to seal a 46-0 victory. The referee then blew up slightly early due to two further injuries.

Overall, the Sports should be praised this weekend for not giving up in a match where several teams may have thrown in the towel.

The conditions and injuries certainly did not help the Sports to create many chances and this writer is positive that all will bounce back; I hope that none of the injuries were too serious.

TP

Cowbridge secure a vital victory...

COWBRIDGE entertained Old Penarthians at the Athletic Field and secured vital points by winning 9-8.

The pitch was very soft under foot and the opening exchanges went Old Pens way and it took some good defending to keep them out. The first score was a penalty for Old Pens' outside half on 15 minutes, followed two minutes later by a try for their left wing - was this the team at the bottom of the league with no points?

Cowbridge got on the scoreboard just past the midpoint with a penalty from centre Tom Stirling. On 25 minutes full back Tom Harrison made a great break on halfway, and tried to round the full back but got hit by what was adjudged to have been an illegal tackle and from the resulting penalty Stirling added three more points hitting the crossbar on the way over.

With 10 minutes to halftime wing Will Thomas had to hold his opposite number up over the line to prevent another try. Old Pens had their second row sent off after a first yellow was followed by back chat, and their woes were compounded when their hooker was sent to the sin bin for slowing the ball

down. The halftime score was 6-8.

David Popham came into the front row for the second half but the scrums were a lottery. Harrison showed his defensive qualities with a last-ditch tackle on their right wing after 15 minutes.

Prop Ben Worrell was making good yards with his drives. Geraint Thomas came on for flanker Rhod Walker at the midpoint and had several good drives himself.

Supporters' hearts fluttered when there were two near interceptions for Old Pens before, on 32 minutes, Sterling added his third penalty.

With five minutes remaining wing Thomas fielded a kick and made a great 30 metre run infield that should have produced more. The last minutes were very tense as, urged on by their support, Old Pens had two scrums in the Cowbridge 22, but the error strewn match finally ended with the all important win.

Captain Matt Wright and second row partner Emyr Stone got through a lot of work in the tight and loose, while young Adam Dix, not having things all his own way, put in another gutsy performance from scrum half, but overall the game was only memorable for

the result. Credit to Old Pens - they gave their all.

The BC youth were also in action at home. Perhaps suffering a hangover from their marvellous win the week before, their lacklustre performance was still good enough for a 18-3 win.

Try scorers were No 8 Dan Holder, wing Harry Driscoll, who finished a length of the pitch try started by scrum half Tom Lucas, rounding several defenders, kicking ahead and Driscoll collecting the ball to dive over; flanker Llywd Ems also bagged one and Iestyn Jones added a penalty.

Just to emphasise their performance in the Welsh Cup, Cowbridge are now among the best four youth teams in Wales and have drawn last season's cup winners Penallta in the semi-final, the match to be played at Llanharan on March 7.

This Saturday the 1st XV are away at Dinas Powys and any sort of point there would be a bonus; then on March 7 there is another massive game at home against Caerau Ely.

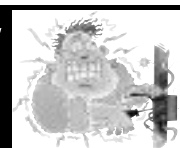
The BD youth are at home this Saturday to Barry - all support would be very welcome, and a reminder that France v Wales kicks off at 5pm.

RV/RK



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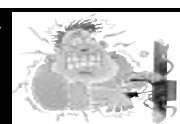
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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

HOLE

David Cyril George (Dai)

Peacefully on February 18th, in hospital, Dai of Cowbridge, formerly of Ystradowen. Loving brother of Graham, Michael, Edwina, Philip and the late Betty, respected brother-in-law of Wally and Helen and a much loved uncle of Peter, Elisha and James, will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral Thursday, March 5th, service at Ystradowen Church at 2pm, followed by interment in the churchyard. Flowers and inquiries to WH Preece & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun CF72 8PN Tel: 01443 223368.

REES

Lionel

Suddenly but peacefully on February 15 at UHW Cardiff, surrounded by his family, Lionel of Barry (former Mayor of Barry). Beloved husband of Dorothy, much loved father of Susan and Sandra, father-in-law of David and Julian, loving grandfather of all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday March 4, service 2pm at St Marys Church, Holton Road, Barry, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home. Mourning attire optional.

Fondest memories of our darling

PAULINE HUISH

'Polly'

Three years ago this week.

Of all the precious gifts in life, however great or small, to have you in our lives was the greatest of all.

With love & birthday wishes from all the family.

POLLY

25/27 February - Yesterday 66yrs - Tomorrow 3yrs

Today...

'Wonderful memories, dearer than gold, of a sister whose worth can never be told. But every day our whole lives through, we will always love & remember you.'

Sandra & Keith & Phil xxx

DAVIES

Ronald (Ron)

Suddenly but peacefully at home in Westgate, Cowbridge on February 19th, aged 89. Beloved husband of the late Gwen, a very much loved uncle and great uncle who will be missed awfully. A good neighbour and friend. A lovely man with a big heart.

'GOD BLESS'

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday March 10th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be sent to the British Heart Foundation. c/o Mr Jack Hawkins, 10 Percy Smith Road, Llantwit Major, CF61 1GW.

PEARCE

Julie

otherwise Julie Stamp

Peacefully on February 20, Julie passed away in the Marie Curie Hospice, aged 62 years. Julie will be deeply missed by loving husband Adrian, loving son Michael, loving brother and sister Shirley and Johnathan and all family and friends.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, until her funeral on Friday, 27th February at the Cardiff and Vale Crematorium Port Road, Barry at 3pm.

TANNER

William Marshall (Bill)

Passed away peacefully at Little Brynhill Farm on February 15th. Bill, aged 88 years, a well known milkman and farmer. Dearly loved husband of Janet, much loved Dad of Carol & John. Father-in-law to Sharon and Kevin. Loving grandpa to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Brother of Peter, Ken and the late Tony.

Bill will be sadly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Service to take place at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Tuesday, March 3rd at 11am, followed by interment at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service to Prostate Cancer Support at The University Hospital Of Wales in memory of Bill. Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Lynday Ellis 01446 407962.

FARLEY

Patricia Ann

Avril and Alex would like to thank everyone who attended Tricia's funeral on February 13. Sincere thanks to Rev Robert Evans for conducting such a lovely service and to W James & Sons, Fonmon for all their help.

Finally, grateful thanks to her many friends, doctors, nurses and Holme Tower, who all did a wonderful job caring for and supporting Tricia during her illness.

JONES

David Frederick

Suddenly on 21 February 2015, David of Llantwit Major. Darling husband of Elke and beloved brother of Janet and brother in law John. He was a loving father to Christine, Karen and Matthew and a much loved grandfather.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 6 March at 10.30am. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to the British Heart Foundation (cheques only please) c/o the Funeral Home.

FERRIDAY

Brian Leslie

Peacefully on February 12 after a long illness at UHW Cardiff, Brian Leslie, aged 79 years, of Claude Road, Barry. Dearly loved husband of Mary, a loved father of Robert, Mark, Alison, cherished grandfather and great grandfather, dear brother of Robert (Bob).

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Tuesday, March 3. Service in the chapel at 1.45pm, afterwards cremation at Barry Crematorium 3pm. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice in Wales.

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on 1st March*

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Nan & Gramps xxx*

BALL Jamie & Floss Congratulations

on your 1st Wedding
Anniversary on
March 1st

*All our love
Mum, Dad, Mitchell,
Georgia & Boe xxx*

PROBERT Nicola

Peacefully on February 21 after a long illness bravely borne, Nicola, aged 59 years, sadly passed away. Much loved wife of Roger, cherished mum of Alun, Andrew and Sarah. A loving mother-in-law to Vicky and Robert. Dearly missed nanna to Keeley, Logan, Sofia, Tyler and Chelsey. A loving daughter of Harry & Shirley. Nicola will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at the Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service on Wednesday, 4 March at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Ward B4 Haematology at the University Hospital of Wales. Family request black attire optional. Further enquiries to Nicola Ellis 01446 407962.

MASKELL

Petrina (Trina) Ann

Loving daughter of Dilys & David, devoted mum to Christopher and Sherrie, mother-in-law to Jasmine, Nanna T to Sophia, sister to Andrew, sister-in-law to Karen, auntie to Celyn and Aled and like a mother to Scott. Loved and missed by many family and friends.

Resting with Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, until her funeral service at 2pm on Monday, March 2 at the Cardiff and Vale Crematorium Port Road, Barry. Family flowers only, donations towards a memorial stone welcomed and to be collected by Park Directors at the service.

Lesley Anne Stewart (nee Harris)

Peacefully on 20th February 2015.
Mother of Matthew, sister to Beverley
and daughter of Jon and Vi,
much loved by us all.
Private cremation in Bath.

HUGHES

Barrie

Peacefully on February 22, surrounded by his family, Barrie slipped quietly away. Darling and devoted husband of Teresa, devoted and adored father and father-in-law of Derryn, Rhys and Emma. Proud and doting grandpa of Jessica, Luke, Seren and Ethan. Loving son of Les and the late Phyl. Respected son-in-law of Pam and the late Ralph, much loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle, loved and respected by all who knew him.

*"You looked after us all until the very end.
Rest now my love until we meet again"*

Funeral to take place on Friday, 6 March at The Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Barry. Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be made at the service to Marie Curie Cancer Care where daffodil badges will be available. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

MORRIS

Eric Humphrey

Peacefully on February 13th in Springbank Nursing Home, Barry. Eric, aged 86 years. Beloved husband of June, and dearly loved father of Josephine and Claire. A private family funeral service will be taking place.

No flowers please, if desired donations may be sent in Eric's memory to the Alzheimer's Society, 16 Columbus Walk, Brigantine Place, Cardiff CF10 4BY.

MOLLART

Shirley Vivienne

Suddenly on February 9 2015, Shirley Vivienne Mollart passed away. Beloved sister of Valerie, Hazel, Grenville and Deirdre. Much loved sister-in-law of Marion and George. Devoted aunt of Rebecca, Julia, Fiona and Alex and nephews-in-law Roger and Robert. Dear great aunt of David, Matthew and Sophie.

*Shirley will be sorely missed by us all.
God bless you.*

Funeral will take place on Wednesday, 4 March 2015 in Coychurch Crematorium at 11am. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home or donations may be made to a charity of your choice. Enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son. 01446 792489.

TREPLETON

Bet (nee Slade)

Peacefully, on St Valentine's Day, Bet, aged 91 years, of Dock View Road, Barry. Beloved wife of the late Jim, proud and devoted mother of Christine, George, Frank and Robert, dear mother-in-law to Pat, Rayma and Andrea and loving grandmother to Sarah, Jolene, Ross and Clare.

Bet will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at AG Adams & Sons, Gladstone Rd, Barry, until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, on Monday, March 2nd at 11am. Family flowers only, donations in memory of Bet may be made to Crossroads Care in the Vale (EMI) Ltd, c/o the funeral home.

TREPLETON

Passed away on February 14th 2015.
Betty, a dear sister-in-law, will always be remembered with love by Glen & family.

Funeral Directors (SEE MORE ON PAGE 34)

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Happy 20th Birthday Joshua Yorwerth
on 28th February
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Melanie & families xxx

LOOK WHO'S 21
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James Risby
3rd March 2015
Mum would be so proud of you.
All our love Rebekah, Nicky, Charlie & Quinn xxx

Happy 21st Birthday! Amy Roy
on March 2nd 2015
Have a fab day
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from Dad, Kelly, Jordan, Angela and Peter xxx

Connor Price
Happy 18th Birthday
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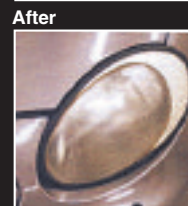
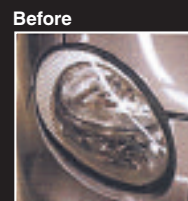
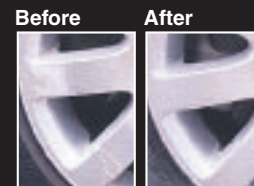
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Choose from solid shades of Alabaster White or Flame Red, metallic shades of Starburst Silver, Twilight Grey, Black, Force Red, Bronze and Azure, or why not go for a bit of luxury with the pearlescent Storm White shade?

The Pulsar is not only confident and assertive on the outside, but on the inside as well.

You'll be able to sit in luxury in the Visia, Acenta and n-tec models, which come with graphite cloth interior or in the Tekna, which includes a stylish graphite leather interior.

To arrange a test drive of the Nissan Juke or Nissan Pulsar, call Wessex Garages on Hadfield Road on 02921 677 650, visit

www.wessexgarages.co.uk, follow the company on Twitter at www.twitter.com/wessexgarages or log on to www.facebook.com/wessexgarages.

Open evening for ladies football team

THE Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club is running an open evening on Thursday, March 12, at St Cyres School, Penarth for new players between 5pm-6pm.

This is an opportunity to come and meet the largest female football club in south Wales who offer football for girls from age six to senior ladies in the Vale and Cardiff areas. The session will take place at the new indoor sports hall with club officials and players attending to answer any questions that parents or potential new players may have - come and find out how you can get involved.

To attend the open evening, please email: valegirlsfc@gmail.com, or simply come along on the day.

LW

Vale CC get ready for new season

VALE CC's 07540 079978) or Mark Francis on 07708 005412.

The youth compete in the Cardiff and the Vale Junior League in May, June and July, with teams

at under-9, under-11, under-13 and under-15. Youth nets commence at Llantwit Major school on Sunday, February 22, between 2-3pm for players between seven and 15 and run until March 29.

Qualified coaching will be offered during these sessions. Any parent interested in their child attending these sessions or require more information on youth cricket at the club should contact Carys Stallard on 01656 880938.

MF

VIFC edge Wenvoe in five goal thriller

SEAN FLYNN scored an early opener for the VIFC in this game against Wenvoe before Jordan Mortimore extended his scoring run of goals in eight consecutive games.

Wenvoe rallied at halftime and found a goal but Dean Cleave soon restored the two goal lead. Concede. Score. Repeat.

Wenvoe made it 3-2 with a well worked free-kick only for VI substitute Courtney Goodwin to complete the win with a superb lobbed effort.

It was the third time these sides have met with both sides bragging a victory over the other. Wenvoe emerged victorious in the league while VIFC knocked their title rivals out of the Barry Cup in the quarter finals.

Team: P.Lucas,

J.Robinson, R.Humphreys, N.Cox, R.Lewis, T.Charles, J.Laing, D.Cleave, S.Flynn, J.Mortimore, A.Rogers. Subs: L.Lewis, C.Goodwin, D.Garrison.

Despite the win, VI Football Club still need

to count on other sides to help their cause as Wenvoe still have two games in hand to play.

If both sides win the remainder of their matches, Wenvoe will win the division by a single point. RC

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for February 23:

1st Alan Lewis & Terry Evans 65.91%, 2nd Debbie & Simon Richards 61.34%, 3rd Jane Brook & David Barwood 59.60%.

This Monday we will be playing the St David's Day Celtic Sims, all are welcome - members £4 and visitors £6. LE

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Farmers enjoy presentation evening

THE annual presentation dinner and dance for 97 members and guests of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, was held last Friday evening in the well-appointed St Quentin's Suite at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

Society captain Mike King accompanied by his supportive wife Val, were delighted to welcome everyone to this most enjoyable of events, where the hard-earned awards won during the previous year were handed out to the respective winners.

The society award for golfer of the year was won for a second year running by someone now enjoying life in the 80's.

Glyn Watts-Jones, now in his 81st year, once again proved that age is no barrier when attempting to play consistently by accumulating 234

stableford points in just eight competitions to collect the President's Putter award.

Glyn's brother Brian together with Neil McLean finished joint runner up with 233 points followed with David Williams, who finished in fourth place with 232 points.

John Caines and Trevor Wooding both with 230 points finished in joint fifth place.

Following a superb evening meal, everyone was then entertained by 'Bogart', a five-piece band that provided music appropriate to the age profile of those attending, with the dance floor fully occupied for the rest of the evening.

Members are now looking forward to the start of the new golfing season which starts today (Thursday) at Southerndown Golf Club with incoming captain Brian Jones launching the opening drive.

T.McC



Welsh triples at Sully Stadium

SULLY Stadium is hosting the first and second rounds of the Welsh Bowling Association's triples competition on Sunday (March 1).

The first round consisting of eight games commences at 10am with the winners starting the second round at 2pm.

There are a number of internationals taking part, while Sully are represented by the triples of Carl Best, Ian Paterson, and Brian Griffiths, and Mat Gershenson, Martin Clarke, and Matthew Woodcock, while the other Sully triple of Gareth John, Jon Ackland and Chris Ackland, who are also through to the second

round but are playing their game at Llanelli - good luck to all the Sully triples!

Sully Stadium will be open from 9am with refreshments available throughout the day; also lunch will be available to order.

Sully members are reminded that the entry forms for 2015/16 Welsh indoor competitions are available in the foyer of the club and have to be returned by the end of March.

With all league games now finished the Sully Indoor Bowls Club's in-house competitions are fully underway with a couple of the competitions already at the semi-final stage with the finals due to take place on March 28/29.

FP



LETTER TO EDITOR Pitching in to save Vale junior football

AFTER attending a mini coaches meeting, I was extremely shocked and disappointed to hear of the lack of development and funding offered to grass roots football in the Vale - surprised at the council's option to fund a 3G pitch at Jenner Park.

To hear Phil Beaman say there are plenty of multi-court facilities for mini football to use is disgraceful.

These courts are a dangerous environment to entertain over 30 teams on a Saturday morning in one age group.

I'm now convinced The council have no idea of the size of mini football. Without investment for a 3G pitch that can be obtained for community use on a daily basis, grassroots football in the Vale will slowly die.

Funding a pitch at Jenner Park will only benefit one club that has only been going for only two years.

How many hours per week will grass roots teams be able to train there if Barry Town have their first team, youth team, and junior teams on there? Not forgetting if they set up an academy.

The response from all the clubs on the night was very good and all coaches were in agreement that the Vale of Glamorgan council should actually listen to people, instead of just going off and doing what one or two councillors think is the right idea.

No clubs were asked their opinions, yet they are the ones who have to use rundown facilities and pay through the nose for poor pitches.

Let's hope they see sense, especially with the elections coming up.

Matt Warner,
Coach, Cadroxton Barry FC under-10s.

Latest Barrivale Bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for February 17:

1st Mike Close & Mike Best 60.95%; 2nd Jane Brook & Irene Thomas 60.33%; 3rd=Kay Dyer & Noelle Bond 59.43%; 3rd=Mick Green & Denis Mottram 59.43%.

Jane Brook and Irene Thomas won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

The Barry & District sports league round-up

CRIB DIVISION 1 league table:

Cadoxton Cons 145 points, Liberals 144 points, Wyndham Cons 144 points, Moors Boys 142 points, West End Wanderers 135 points, Rhoeose Social 129 points, West End 129 points, Railway 112 points.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1 league table:

West End C 91.5 points, Sea View B 90.5 points, Allsorts 79.5 points, King William XII 78.5 points, West End D 77 points, Slammers 66.5 points, Barries Boys 62 points, Rhoeose 61.5 points, Rugby Club 61 points, Rhoeose Social B 59.5 points, Rhoeose Social A 56.5 points, Liberals A 52 points, Rhoeose Social C 52 points, Runway Club 44 points, Liberals C 38.5 points, Cambrian Flyers 37.5 points.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons A 0, Savoy A 5; Harbour B 4, West End C 1; Cadoxton Cons B 4, Wyndham Cons C 1; Harbour A 4, Penarth Cons B 1; Penarth Cons A 1; Rhoeose Social C 3; Rhoeose Social B 2, Savoy B 3.

League table: Harbour B 76 points, Savoy A 73

points, Cadroxton Cons B 58 points, West End C 58 points, Cadoxton Cons Z 53 points, Rhoeose Social C 47 points, Rhoeose Social B 45 points, Harbour A 44 points, Wyndham Cons A 41 points, Penarth Cons B 39 points, Savoy B 34 points, Wyndham Cons C 32 points.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Railway A 4, Sully Sports A 1; Market Street C 3, Penarth Cons D 2; Penarth Cons A 2, Cadoxton Cons A 3; West End B 3, Market Street B 2; Railway B 2, Liberators 3; Railway C 1, Services Social B 4. League table: Railway A 72 points, Railway B 57 points, Market Street B 54 points, Liberators 52 points, Penarth Cons D 52 points, Services Social B 48 points, Cadoxton Cons A 46 points, Sully Sports A 46 points, Market Street C 45 points, Penarth Cons A 44 points, West End B 37 points, *Railway C 32 points (* points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results can be viewed at www.barryleagues.co.uk or via Facebook search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

The rain stops (steplechase) play

THE Curre & Llangibby Hunt Steeplechases, which were due to have taken place at Howick, near Chepstow, last Sunday were rained off.

The hunt will be seeking a new date either in March or April.

CTC House, Whittle Road, Leckwith Industrial Estate, Cardiff, CF11 8AT

Contact : Paul Lewis - 029 20 308095 / 07811 355417
E-mail: paullewis@wattsctc.co.uk

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<p>2014 ISUZU EX DEMO D-MAX 2.5L Manual 1629HP Diesel £12,295 + VAT (14 Plate 5,000 miles)</p>	<p>2014 FIAT SCUDO 4 Seater Crusian £13,295 + VAT</p>	<p>2014 ISUZU EX DEMO D-MAX Double Cab 2.5L Manual Diesel £18,295 + VAT (54 Plate 7,000 miles)</p>	<p>2014 VAUXHALL Vivaro New Model SL27 1.6 130hp 60-Turbo Sportive £12,295 + VAT</p>	<p>2011 MITSUBISHI L300 WARRIOR DCB-Di-D 464 2.5L Auto Diesel £8,495 NO VAT (164,900 miles)</p>

RESHAPED WALES CAN BREAK UP THE FRENCH CONNECTION

WITH normal Six Nations service being resumed this weekend, attention now turns to the Wales team to meet France in Paris on Saturday.

The question on everyone's lips is – which team will turn up on the day? And I don't just mean the unpredictable, strangely misfiring French!

Wales, too, have lacked consistency, blowing hot and cold in the autumn tests and in the first two games of the current tournament.

They have certainly not managed to reach the glittering heights achieved in the three Grand Slam years and during the 2011 Rugby

World Cup in New Zealand. There they were the team of the tournament, but controversially lost 8-9 to France in a nail-chewing semi-final at Eden Park.

That narrow, one-point margin epitomised the fine balance that has long existed between these two evenly-matched rivals from either side of the Channel, which has seen Wales win 46 of the 92 meetings since 1908 to France's 43 – with three games drawn.

This is also reflected in the total points amassed by the two sides – Wales 1,364 compared to France's 1,325.

Thus neither side can go into this battle totally confident of victory, with France, as the home team, possibly having a slight edge.

However, much depends on if the Welsh team, announced on Tuesday showing four changes, has learnt

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

the lessons of that dire second half collapse against England in Cardiff, and the narrow escape against the Scots in Edinburgh.

There can be no question that the in-form Liam Williams has thoroughly earned his starting place on the wing at the expense of Alex Cuthbert, and can be expected to pep up the backline.

Hooker Scott Baldwin, who replaces Richard Hibbard, knows he will come in for special attention from the juggernaut French pack, which will be targeting the Welsh setpiece at Stade de France and, in

particular, the notoriously fragile lineout.

How he and the rest of the Welsh eight, also bolstered by impressive young tight head Samson Lee and the towering Luke Charteris, respond to this full frontal threat will inevitably hold the key to victory over Les Bleus.

It's been done before... It can be done again!

WALES TEAM

Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon); George North (Northampton Saints); Jonathan Davies (ASM Clermont Auvergne); Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro); Liam Williams (Scarlets); Dan Biggar (Ospreys); Rhys Webb (Ospreys); Gethin Jenkins (Blues); Scott Baldwin (Ospreys); Samson Lee (Scarlets); Luke Charteris (Racing Metro); Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys); Dan Lydiate (Ospreys); Sam Warburton (Blues, captain),

Taulupe Faletau (Dragons).

Replacements: Richard Hibbard (Gloucester); Paul James (Bath); Aaron Jarvis (Ospreys); Bradley Davies (Wasps); Justin Tipuric (Ospreys); Mike Phillips (Racing Metro); Rhys Priestland (Scarlets); Scott Williams (Scarlets).

• This week's shock news that WRU chief executive Roger Lewis is stepping down may be greeted with glee in some quarters, particularly the four professional regions, but it is to be hoped that it does not herald another divisive episode in our notoriously drama-prone national game

The choice of successor could now see a major shift in power at the top and the national coach, Warren Gatland, will not be the only one looking anxiously to the future as events unfold.

Whitewash fails to tell the whole story for battling Bridgend Athletic

MATHEMATICAL LY, a 54-0 defeat is a real hammering, but the scoreline does not reflect the contribution Bridgend Athletic of the Championship made against third placed Premiership side Carmarthen Quins.

The Quins had recently scored 91 points against Llanelli and it could have been the same if the visitors had capitulated against a side that were strong in all phases.

The Quins averaged at least a stone and three inches in height per man in the pack. This was reflected in the set piece, particularly scrums and set piece drives.

All four of the Quins first half tries from Chris Banfield, Rhodri Clancy, Ellis Lloyd and a penalty try came directly or indirectly from lineout catch and drives inside the Athletic 22.

In broken play good tackling from centres Chris Price and Ryan Owen and full back Lyndsey MacAuland and determined tackling by the pack with No 8 Griff Davies prominent prevented the floodgates opening.

A break from outside half Robert Evans carried on by Owen saw wing Dan Howells cross in the corner – but the final pass was judged forward.

In fact territorially the Athletic matched the Quins, but did not have the cutting edge required to breach a well-organised Premiership defence.

The second half again

saw the Quins cross at intervals for four further tries from Ellis Lloyd, Sion Jones, Jevan Sebastian and Chris Banfield.

In between the Athletic did show great resolve and determination to limit the impact of the Quins' 15-man assault.

The game was played throughout at a hectic speed and when it reduced to a seven-a-side nature in the final quarter the Athletic gave as good as they got.

Half backs Jake Williams and Robert Evans made a number of breaks with Williams' break seeing him take himself from his own 22 to within 10 metres of the line.

Ryan Owen dived over the try line – but what he considered a genuine stretch for the line the referee interpreted as a double movement and penalised him.

Even the Quins

supporters recognised the contribution the Athletic made and were cheering the visitors' approach during this period.

Team Manager Paul Hearn summed up the game: "The scoreline did not reflect the game. However, despite the Athletic being competitive throughout it did highlight the huge gulf between mid-table in the Championship and the top end of the Premiership.

"The club learnt a lot from the game which they can take into future Championship games, starting at Newbridge this weekend."

He singled out, in a competitive team effort, outside half Robert Evans, full back Lyndsey MacAuland and centres Chris Price and Ryan Owen, who for the second successive week was awarded the Athletic man of the match award.

AB

CRICKET CLUB WARMING UP

PORTHCAWL Cricket Club begin preparations for the coming season with net practice at Porthcawl Comprehensive School Sports Hall from Wednesday, March 4.

Nets for seniors are from 8pm-10pm while the junior section (to school year seven), under the tuition of club coach Mark Dixon, practice from 7pm-8pm.

The senior teams play

in the restructured seven tier South Wales Cricket Association with the first team in league two and the second team in tier five.

The juniors play in the South Wales Junior Cricket League at age groups under-9, under-11 and under-12.

New members will be made most welcome - for further information please contact John Edwards (chairman) on 01656 771631 or Peter Downes (secretary) on 01656 785505.

JE

Pencoed keep up promotion push with Harlequins win



ABOVE: Lloyd Ryland crosses for a try, while RIGHT: The pack get ready to scrum down!
ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

P E N C O E D maintained their push for Division 1 status with this comfortable win at the Recreation Ground, beating Aberavon Harlequins 36-3.

Playing into a stiff breeze the home side with their pack dominant at the set scrum were in the ascendancy throughout the first half.

Pencoed opened the scoring after fifteen minutes when No8 Gareth Prentice capitalised on the efforts

of his front five at a close up scrum to force his way over on the blindside.

The Pencoed pack then provided their second try, as a lineout catch and cleverly controlled drive saw hooker Tom Drew emerge from the mass of bodies as the try scorer, Marc Davies adding the conversion from within

out for a 12-0 lead. Ryan Pugh then put the Quins on the scoreboard with a penalty goal, before the home pack returned to business as usual, when at a wheeled scrummage the ever-alert back row forward Aaron Halse

dived in to score. The Pencoed front row of Christian Powell, hooker Drew, and skipper Keiron Moore, supplemented by the efforts of second rows Ashley Halse and Dano Howells were certainly providing the platform for victory.

Not to be outdone, the home backs then got on the scoresheet. Back row forward Rhys Pope fed Davies out of the tackle and the outside half left the visitors' defence dead with a superb dummy to race away at the posts from 45 metres before adding the conversion and Pencoed led 24-3 at the interval.

Pencoed continued to make chances early in



the second half and following combined play from both forwards and backs the twice involved Lloyd Ryland crossed, Davies converted.

From this point in the match the visitors, to their credit, enjoyed the best of possession and territory; however they were unable to break down a determined, organized home defence.

This was the pattern for most of the second half.

Pencoed replacement Paul Macfarlane made an immediate impact ripping open possession for his side before fellow replacement Adam Williams took the pressure off his side with a fine 40 metre clearance

into the visitors' half. Pencoed, having absorbed the Quins' pressure for most of the second half, were to have the final say, wing threequarter Liam Halse diving in following a scissors move to set the seal on a satisfactory home victory.

No 8 Gareth Prentice, whose abrasive runs had given the opposition problems throughout, was chosen as match sponsors Thomas Carroll Group's man of the match.

On Saturday Pencoed travel to meet Taibach for a 1.30pm kick off, the supporters' coach departing the clubhouse at 11.15am.

TR

Seven heaven for footballers

SUNDAY saw Bridgend Disabled Footballer's take on the mighty Doncaster Titans in a friendly at Penybont Football Club.

Due to bad weather our game, which was due to kick off at 2pm on the grass pitch, was called off due to it being like a swimming pool, and moved on to the 3G pitch at 4pm.

Even though the rain was lashing down both teams took to the magic carpet and played some outstanding football with Bridgend DFC coming

out on top 7-4.

This was a very tough game played in stormy weather but both teams played some amazing football.

Goals were scored by Rhys Hulme (2), Johnathan Seldon, Jacob Halliday, Ross Thurling, Daniel Thomas and Tommy Myerscough.

Next up for us is the three counties ability counts league in Worcester. A big thank you goes out to all players and Penybont Football Club for letting us use their facilities.

KH

Porthcawl bridge club

THE Porthcawl Duplicate Bridge Club held its main social event of the year on Thursday, February 12 - the Meskin Bowl (handicap), and the Meskin Trophy (scratch).

In days gone by, the event was held in one of the plush hotels in Porthcawl (the old Esplanade or the Seabank) with a dress code of dinner suit and gowns, but sadly times have changed.

However an excellent buffet supper is still provided by the lady committee members, gentlemen wear suits, and the standard of bridge is probably better.

Latest results are:

Saturday, February 7: First - Terry Dolan & Kate Craven; Dil & Marian Evans. Monday, February 9: First - Tony Haworth & Gary Williams; second - Trish Saunders & Marian Evans. Thursday, February 12: First (Meskin Trophy) - Tony Haworth & Keith Davison; second (also winners of the Meskin Bowl) - Sue Anthony & Eileen Mahoney.

Saturday, February 14: First - Roger Plant & Betty Longley; second - John Beard & Debbie Davies. Monday, February 16: First - Roger Plant & Terry Dolan; second - Emer Disley & Pat Haworth.

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